

ISSUE 42

SUMMER 1995

CHILDREN OF THE JEDI by Barbara Hambly

A Book Review by Z. P. Florian

I have been waiting for this one a long time, because I am an avid fan of Hambly, and knowing her abilities and her fondness for SW, I knew she'd be eminently capable of writing a good one, perhaps even within the restrictions imposed on the writers. And knowing Hambly, those restrictions must be mighty powerful, if she couldn't come up with something better than this book.

Now, the book is good. The characterization is far superior to anything I've seen in pro novels. Luke's use of the Force is well written and deeply explored. Leia and Han are a mature, strong couple, both Threepio and Artoo are treated with respect. There is a splendid background tapestry of beings. I've never seen better Jawas. The story rolls smoothly, the secondary characters are formidable, and Hambly even dares to create a "girl for Luke", a girl who is — all right, I won't tell, I won't tell! — well, she is twisted enough to be in a fanzine. She deserves Luke, too.

And, naturally, Hambly delivered her usual crippled, scarred, hobbled, starved, exhausted, male wizard, who ignores his own pain and fights for his goal, no matter what. Yeah, Luke. Luke fans will be delighted to read his thoughts on the Force as well.

I couldn't put the book down.

With all this said, I have to add that the plot is no more than a comic strip and not even a comic strip from the Dark Horse series. The recipe is plain and simple, much as any pro novel's — create some evil enemy, a remnant of Palpatine's rule, and write enough calamities to sustain the story until that evil thing is dismantled.

And this is the crux of the matter. The SW movies had far more than that. The conflict that made us fans was not the question whether the Death Star could be destroyed or Palpatine killed. The conflict was deeper, more complex, the questions more taxing. Could a little farmboy become

a powerful man, and could he handle the power? Could a mercurial smuggler become a dedicated Rebel? What were the consequences of not telling the whole truth? Could the underdog win? Could a Dark Lord turn from his evil ways? What did it mean to have an evil father? Was it better to obey our teachers or follow our own feelings? How could one turn to the Dark? Why? Was it better to die than turn? What is Dark, what is Light?

Those are the questions the pro novels can't, or are not allowed to, play with. In our fanzines, we can. Whatever

enjoyment I derived — a lot, I must say! — from Hambly's novel, was limited to seeing a very heroic Luke in action. Not that she didn't have the skill to ask deeper questions: I'd love to discuss the fate of any man transferred into a droid's body ... and Hambly was the first to almost convince me that Ben had good reasons to lie to Luke...

And whatever Hambly writes for SW, I'll read, even if I know beforehand what will happen ... just for the pleasure of seeing it happen.

CHARACTER BIOGRAPHY

Compiled by Judith Yuenger

from the SW Screen Saver by LucasArts

(Two or three of these biographies will be printed in every issue)

NAME: LUKE SKYWALKER
SEX: MALE
RACE: HUMAN
HEIGHT: 1.72 METERS

Luke never knew his real parents. He was raised by Owen and Beru Lars on a moisture farm deep in the wilderness of Tatooine. He was led to believe they were his aunt and uncle who took him in after his parents were killed. He was totally oblivious to the fact that his real father had become the Dark Lord of the Sith and that Owen was doing a favor to his brother, Obi-Wan Kenobi, by taking in the child. Owen tried several times to dissuade Luke from pursuing Kenobi and, in turn, the truth. While keeping Luke from joining the Imperial Academy was said to be for the good of the farm, in actuality he wanted to keep Luke as far from the Empire as possible, even if that meant locking him at home.

Luke was an eager boy, talking large dreams with his friends, Camie, Fixer and Biggs. In fact, it was Biggs who turned Luke onto the Rebellion by jumping ship and joining up. Bright, eager and unusually strong in the center, Luke was a model Rebel just waiting for his chance. And that chance came in the form of two droids jettisoned from the *Tantive IV*. Had Owen not purchased the droids on the Jawa market, the Battle of Yavin may never have occurred and Luke may never have become the hero that he is today.

The droids led him to Obi-Wan who suggested to Luke that perhaps he had a greater destiny, one that must be actively taken. Luke struggled with this until finding Owen and Beru slain by the Empire.

Confident in his abilities, Luke trained to become the finest Jedi he could be, taking every bit of knowledge

Obi-Wan could offer. It has become his single heartfelt goal to restore the New Republic by recreating the Jedi.

NAME: PRINCESS LEIA ORGANA
SEX: FEMALE
RACE: HUMAN
HEIGHT: 1.5 METERS

Swept away from her home at a young age by Obi-Wan Kenobi, Leia Organa has few memories of her natural parents. She was told that they died and that Bail Organa took her in. In truth, Obi-Wan secretly placed her under Bail's care when her father, Anakin Skywalker, became Darth Vader. The Organas were as loving as foster parents could be, and she considered herself to be their own child.

As Bail was Viceroy of Alderaan at the time, Leia received the best education from the best schools. She grew to be a strong political leader and became one of the youngest members of the Imperial Senate. From there, she fought for reforms, usually to no success. Soon she began to work for the Alliance.

It was at her father's insistence that she departed on the mission that began the events leading to the Battle of Yavin. She was to find Obi-Wan Kenobi and, on the way, receive the stolen plans to the Death Star. Both missions were passed on to the astromech droid, R2-D2, when her ship was overtaken by a Star Destroyer.

Leia is a strong-willed woman with her ideas firmly rooted in her ideals. She knows the course of action that should be taken, although she has trouble explaining it. This supports her "do it and they'll see" philosophy. Her primary concern is for the Rebel Alliance, but somewhere deep down, cries a lonely child searching for someone who truly understands her.

SEVEN DEADLY SINS OF FANDOM

Susan M. Garrett

1. *SLOTH* — Those people who don't keep records because they can't be bothered, don't respond to inquiries for months, if ever, those people who never try anything unique and interesting because it's too much work, etc.

2. *DISCOURTESY*— Calling directory assistance to get a number that you were not given permission to use, giving out telephone numbers without asking permission, ignoring complaints or questions from your contributors or editors, not acknowledging the receipt of a contrib copy, doing sloppy or incomplete rush work to get something done instead of giving it the care and attention it needs, etc.

3. *ARROGANCE* — Call this the BNF (Big Name Fan) mentality of feeling that they are well known enough to act the way they want instead of with common courtesy, people who put down other fandoms consistently in favor of their own for no particular reason other than a superiority complex, etc.

4. *STUBBORN IGNORANCE* — People who don't know and don't care to correct their lack of knowledge, such as using original artwork for pasteup, sending submissions that don't conform to submission guidelines, etc.

5. *ENVY* — People with petty minds and a minimum of talent who take others to task for being talented, creative, or generally better than they are, including those who criticize a fan's methods or talents without kindness or sensitivity, etc.

6. *MALICE* — People who are just plain mean, which includes such things as spite reviews, nasty edits, blacklisting, etc.

7. *GREED* — The worst crimes imaginable because they cause the most damage; bootleggers, simultaneous submissions, exorbitant prices for zines out of a love of profit, taking deposits and never putting out a zine, etc.

*And some less deadly — but nevertheless annoying — sins of con attendance...**

1. *TURN OUT THE LIGHTS, THE PARTY'S OVER* — Attending a party in someone's room and then staying and staying, when it's obvious that the party's over and the host/hostess would like to clean up, rest, get ready for bed, etc., and having to finally be asked to leave.

2. *OVER-ZEALOUS SUBMISSION-ITIS* — Following an editor around the whole con and waving a manuscript under her nose after she's already politely told you that she will be happy to look at your work but after the con when she has more time.

3. *BLABBERMOUTH SYNDROME* — Attending a panel discussion and proceeding to dominate the discussion, loudly and vociferously, refusing to allow anyone else — including the moderator of the panel — to get a word in edgewise until the rest of the people attending are ready to get a rope and form a lynch mob.

4. *THE DEALERS' ROOM TANGO* — Discourtesy to dealers by taking up residence in front of their table and blocking access to merchandise for other customers by talking endlessly (either to the dealer or to other people), using the dealer's table as a lending library and *reading* all the zines but never buying one, or asking the dealer to hold something while you go get your money and then never returning.

5. *LOVE ME, LOVE MY FILTH* — Discourtesy to other people either through lack of personal hygiene (take a bath once in a while, ferghadsake!), or through loudly discussing or displaying x-rated subject matter in public places. There are a lot of children beginning to attend cons now with their fannish folks and 6-year-olds don't really need to overhear the details of slash relationships broadcast in the restaurant during breakfast!

(reprinted with permission from *The Fantastically Fundamentally Functional Guide to Fandom* by Susan M. Garrett © 1989)

(*An appended list by Cheree Cargill)

1994 STAR aWARDs

- Best Star Wars Zine:** *Imperium* #4 (Editor: Arwen Rosenbaum)
Hon. Men.: *On a Clear Day You Can See Dagobah* #7 (Editors: Mark & Melea Fisher)
Bright Center of the Universe #4 (Editor: Ming Wathne)
- Best Multi Media Zine:** *Flip of a Coin* #16 (Editors: Paula Truelove and Jenny McAdams)
Hon. Men.: *Shadowstar* #34 (Editor: Mary Jean Holmes)
- Best SW Foreign Zine:** *I've Got a Bad Feeling* (Editors: Catriona Campbell & Louise Turner)
Hon. Men.: *The Ormand Factor* (Editor: Louise Turner)
Bounty Hunter #4 (Editor: James Simmonds)
- Best SW Newsletter:** *Bound by the Force*
Hon. Men.: *Voices of the Force*
International Brotherhood of Jedi Knights
- Best SW Vignette:** "Man to Man" by Carol Hines-Stroede (*A Tremor in the Force* #8)
Hon. Men.: "State Dinner" by Z. P. Florian (*Bright Center of the Universe* #4)
"Dark Calling" by Cassandra Boyle (*Imperium* #4)
"What're You Looking At" by Nora Mayers (*Who's Scruffy Lookin'?*)
- Best SW Short Story:** "Alliance Avant Garde" by Susan Zahn (*A Tremor in the Force* #8)
(Tie) "Groundstaff Blues" by Louise Turner (*Imperium* #4)
Hon. Men.: "Her Ladyship" by Marti Schuller (*A Tremor in the Force* #8)
- Best SW Medium Story:** "Lord Vader's Ordeal" by Marti Schuller (*Imperium* #4)
Hon. Men.: "All the Marbles" by Martie Benedict (*A Tremor in the Force* #8)
- Best SW Long Story:** "Mirrors" by Wanda Lybarger (*Bright Center of the Universe* #4)
Hon. Men.: "Balance of Power" by Veronica Wilson (*A Tremor in the Force* #8)
"Pursuit of the Nashtah" by Nora Mayers (novel)
- Best SW Poem:** "Contemplating Frost" by Veronica Wilson (*A Tremor in the Force* #8)
Hon. Men.: "Falcon or Master" by Jennifer Moore (*On a Clear Day You Can See Dagobah* #7)
"Ask Me Again Sometime" by Yvette Ghilan (*Imperium* #4)
- Best SW Filk:** "I Want a Whiskey Voice" by Susan Deborah Smith (*A Tremor in the Force* #8)
Hon. Men.: "Alderaan" by Cheree Cargill (*Alliance and Empire* #2)
"Han's Asteroid" by Lisa Cowan (*On a Clear Day You Can See Dagobah* #7)
- Best SW Illustrator:** Gerald Crotty
Hon. Men.: Wanda Lybarger
Z. P. Florian
- Best SW Cover Artist:** Nancy Stasulis (Front Cover of *A Tremor in the Force* #8)
Hon. Men.: Mark Fisher (Front Cover of *On a Clear Day You Can See Dagobah* #7)
Marla Fair (Front Cover of *Imperium* #4)
- Best SW Miscellaneous:** Tina Bentrup (Cartoons in *A Tremor in the Force* #8)
Hon. Men.: Gerald Crotty (Cartoon in *A Tremor in the Force* #8)
Z. P. Florian ("Zornomic Advisor" in *Crossfire Zone*, Vol. 2, #2)

The Sky's the Limit

Laura Virgil

I'm back in school, studying 3D animation at the Art Institute of Dallas, with the goal of getting back into animation and out of the legal field (forever, hopefully). An incredible opportunity presented itself recently in that Lori Blavins, head of the Art Department, and Collette Michaud, both of LucasArts Entertainment presented a program at the Art Institute of Dallas on Friday, May 19, 1995, and interviewed potential candidates to work in the LucasArts Entertainment Division of Lucasfilms.

LucasArts was founded in 1982 as an international division of Lucasfilms. Their main focus has been in the entertainment industries, producing interactive games such as *Rebel Assault* and *Indiana Jones*, based, of course, on George Lucas' *Star Wars* and *Indiana Jones* trilogies, along with others such as *Mortimer*. LucasArts has, according to UCLA graduate Lori Blavins, garnered over 100 industry awards for their efforts and *Rebel Assault* is one of the top five best-selling games, with over 1 million units sold. The company has extremely lucrative markets in Germany and France and is expanding into China next year.

Ms. Michaud (a graduate of the University of North Texas) presented the majority of the program, along with film and video presentations representing the history of LucasArts, their products and future productions and explained that LucasArts is currently #2 in the "edutainment" market.

Set for release in late May/early June is *Full Throttle*, a new interactive action/adventure game concerning a biker who is framed for murder and his ensuing efforts to clear himself. Mark Hamill portrays the voice of the villain, "Adrian Ripburger". Hamill also does the voice of a blue collar artist-type named Todd in the game. In the video, Hamill was shown while recording the voices and he does a most impressive job. The game looks fast-paced and fun!

Ms. Michaud discussed in detail the process to bring a big game, such as *Rebel Assault*, to fruition, from inception to release. *Rebel Assault II* is in the final production stages and, following beta testing, should be released sometime this year.

It was announced that, in conjunction with the new SW trilogy, LucasArts would be releasing new SW games to take advantage of the market and demand for newer and better games, and that LucasArts personnel will be present on the set of the films in order to help better develop the games.

Regarding the original trilogy, it was revealed that ILM is currently "revamping" the films, using the recent

revelations in computer animation technology and is replacing the old model animation with 3D graphics. Once done, the films will be re-released. Part of the reason for this is to get the animators up to speed for working on the next trilogy. The model animation departments at ILM are, in fact, being replaced with computer animation and the new trilogy will make dramatic use of 3D animation. Most of the alien-type characters and creatures will, in the future, be animated as opposed to having actors in cumbersome and unrealistic costumes. In other words, there will be "no more fuzzy suits". The character of Boba Fett, in particular, was mentioned in terms of updating via 3D animation.

After years of trying (apparently having hit numerous roadblocks with Marin County), George Lucas is building a second ranch next to Skywalker Ranch, on Lucas County Road, adding 500 more acres to the original site. This addition to the Lucas empire is expected to be completed by the year 2000.

From the ladies' talks, question and answer session and video presentations, it was clear that LucasArts is perched on the leading edge of technology and is beginning to work more definitively with its sister company, ILM. They are currently actively pursuing 3D animators and present their employees with a constructive, challenging, family-like environment in which to work. Lucasfilms offers its employees continuing education in the field of computer graphics and with the company. LucasArts is located in San Rafael, California, about 30 miles from Skywalker Ranch. The employees are invited to the Ranch to view films, for lunch and various other activities. George Lucas takes an active interest in divisions under the Lucasfilms umbrella, though he is more personally involved in the development and planning of the next trilogy.

According to Michaud and Blavins, if you work for LucasArts and want to develop new characters, you're free to do so and are, in fact, *encouraged* to do so. The games produced by LucasArts are approximately based one-half on Lucas' already established characters and the other half are original creations of the artists working there.

LucasArts sounds like a dream job and a dream environment, especially for an old fan like me! Alas and alack, I'm halfway to completing the computer animation program and do not yet have the technical skills necessary for such employment. Nevertheless, the program was informative and entertaining, and certainly an inspiring experience.

THE EDITORIAL PAGE . . .

. . . CHEREE CARGILL

First I'd like to thank everyone who kindly offered their sympathies following my father's death in April. Your thoughts and prayers meant more than you can know. Our dad is sorely missed but we are moving along with our lives, as he would have wanted.

My mother has exhibited surprising strength and has recently begun working as "pastry chef" for a small restaurant in her hometown. By that I mean she's making pies like crazy, usually about half a dozen or more every day! She's a prize winning cook and this is right up her alley. While it's hard work, she's really enjoying it and is making a little money too, although having something to do with her days is the primary reason she took this job.

I had a great time seeing everyone at MediaWest this year and particularly enjoyed visiting with all the SE'ers out there. It was really great to finally meet MJ Mink and I hope I didn't bend her ear too much. What started out as attorney jokes quickly got into attorney horror stories! Thanks to Minky and Debbie Kittle for the impromptu pizza party in the Mos Eisley Mall. By the way, next year at the con, definitely check out this wonderful mini-dealer's room! It's chock full with SW stuff! Makes a great meeting place for our gang to gather and chat, too!

The con was pretty quiet for me this year as I didn't have much get up and go following my grueling spring, but it was a joy to be back with my fannish family. I think Marti Schuller and I can both attest how healing your love and good cheer are. I know I felt better just being wrapped up in the Light Side of the Force.

A particular and surprising thrill for me this year was my first ever Fan Q for Best Star Wars Story for "Mercy Mission" in *A Tremor in the Force* #8. I'd never even been nominated before for any writing I'd ever done. *Tremor* has

been nominated several times for Best SW zine but has never won, and SE has won a Fan Q four times for best letterzine. Almost as big a thrill was winning a Star Award honorable mention for "Alderaan" (*Alliance and Empire* #2) in the Best Filk category. While the zines have won, I have always felt that those were joint wins because, if it weren't for all the talented contributors, there wouldn't be any zines! But these two awards were for something I did alone and I can't tell you how thrilled I am to win them, particularly the Fan Q. I never in my wildest dreams expected my little story to even be nominated, let alone win! I haven't stopped grinning since Memorial Day! Thank you, everyone, who voted for me! You've made my year!

Now to let you know of some new features in SE, you will notice the first installment from *The Fantastically Fundamentally Functional Guide to Fandom* by Susan Garrett. This was a wonderful little "how to" and "why to" book published back in 1989 and now out of print. I found it at Revelcon in a used zine box and immediately thought, "This needs to be republished!" I tracked down Susan and she kindly gave her permission to do so. Therefore, for the next dozen or so issues of SE, watch for coming installments on such topics as how to submit material to a zine, how to order zines, what to expect from editors, fannish etiquette, the Fannish Bill of Rights, etc. I think you'll find them interesting and helpful. We start this issue off with "The Seven Deadly Sins of Fandom" and I've appended a list of con sins. This is not to point fingers at anyone because I found myself guilty of some of them! This is intended to help us all respect each others' rights and feelings by being aware of good fannish manners and how things are generally done in fannish circles. Please feel free to comment in your LoCs!

Have a great Labor Day and Autumn!

Editor and Publisher:

Cheree T. Cargill
457 Meadowhill Drive
Garland, TX 75043

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Deadline for #43 - September 30, 1995. Submissions received later than seven (7) days after deadline will not be published in the current issue.

BULLETIN BOARD

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Kathy Agel BADKARMA.1@GENIE.GEIS.COM
Tina Bentrup BENTRUP@UTKLIB.LIB.UTK.EDU
Cheree Cargill C.CARGILL@GENIE.GEIS.COM
..... or CHEREEC@AOL.COM
Cheryl DeLuca CHERYLD815@AOL.COM
Michelle Malkin MALKINB7@IX.NETCOM.COM
Gail Mihara 75142.1432@COMPUSERVE.COM
M. J. Mink MJMINK@AOL.COM
Maggie Nowakowska
..... M.NOWAKOWSKA@GENIE.GEIS.COM
Pat Nussman P.NUSSMAN@GENIE.GEIS.COM
Charyl Perry C.PARRY3@GENIE.GEIS.COM
..... or HOOKS@AOL.COM
Tammy Olsen TAMMYO6951@AOL.COM
Arwen Rosenbaum ARWENR@AOL.COM
..... or 70274.3160@COMPUSERVE.COM
J. P. Treleaven JPMTREE@AOL.COM
Ming Wathne MINGNO1@AOL.COM
Judith Yuenger J.YUENGER@GENIE.GEIS.COM
Susan Zahn PEGGYSUE@SPACEWORKS.COM

CONDOLENCES TO...

Marti Schuller on the death of her mother in May. You all will recall that Marti's father passed away in November. Our sincerest sympathies to Marti in this tragic double loss.

CLUBS

Forces of the Empire
c/o Pat Grant
2343 N. Cedar St., Apt. A,
Holt, MI 48842

ERRATA

From: Arwen Rosenbaum via AOL

Here's an interesting item from Prodigy. Decide for yourself on its validity...

Board: SCI-FI BB
Topic: STAR WARS
Subject: LATEST MOVIE NEWS!

Hello, my name is Bruce Nahin. I represent the Lucasfilm department of Mr. Lucas's movie division. I only handle minor work for Lucasarts. Anyway, since I know that [my brother-in-law, name deleted here] is a huge fan of Star Wars I sometimes pass info on to him, so he has convinced me to tell you guys what I can. George Lucas has finished the production in late October (tentative) and the primary filming should be finished by late March of 1996. Primary means actors without special effects. Lucasfilm has signed a deal with Fox distribution for the right to release the original film in February of 1997. Sometime around the second week I believe. The first new film is slated for release in 1998 and is hopefully going to hit theaters on Memorial Day. They will not be distributed by Fox, but will be by Spielberg's new company, Dreamworks. That is about all I can say for now.

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY...

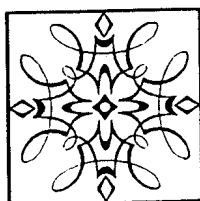
Southern Enclave #10, December 1984, 82 pp., reduced double columns.

Articles included "Race Relations in the SW Universe" by Sandra Necchi, a look at the treatment of various non-human races by humans in both the Alliance and Empire; "Luke's Responsibilities" by Sandi Jones, an evaluation of how Luke reacted to various crises in his life; "An Interview with Dale Pollock", transcribed by Linda Deneroff, a radio interview with the author of *Skywalking*; and "Question Authority", a guest editorial by Jeanine Hennig, Mary Urhausen and Samia Martz protesting the treatment they received from Maureen Garrett and the SW Fan Club at Lone Star Con in Austin, Texas, in September 1985. There were also two reviews, one by Maggie Nowakowska of *In a Faraway Galaxy: A Literary Approach to a Film Series*, and one by Sandra Necchi of *TimeWarp* 6/7.

Locers were Rose Arnold, Terri Black, Tim Blaes, Barbara Brayton, Chris Callahan, Bev Clark, Carolyn Golledge, Rhonda Henderson, Jeanine Hennig, Sandi Jones, Marlene Karkoska, Mary Keever, Linda Kerry, P. J. LaVasseur, Bev Lorensen, Michelle Malkin, Sandra Necchi, Maggie Nowakowska, Pat Nussman, Carole Regine, Sharon Saye, Sally Smith, Jean L. Stevenson, Sally Syrijala, Barbara Tennison, Lisa Thomas, Lin S. Ward, Jeannie Webster, Matthew Whitney, and Ann Wortham. Artists included Danaline Bryant, Cheree Cargill, Rhonda Henderson, Sandi Jones, and Carol Peters.

Zines advertised as "in port" were *Blue Pencil* (editorial zine), *Chameleon* (portraits by Dianne Smith), *Circle of*

Light #1 and #2, *Combining Forces* #3, *Contraband* #2-#3, *Deceptive Journey*, *Eclectic* (art), *Fantasy* #1-#2, *Far Realms* #6-#7, *Field Studies* #1-#2, *Flip of a Coin* #1-#7, *Guardian* #4-#6, *Harrison Ford Fun Book*, *Kessel Run* #1 and #4, *Late Night* #1 (media), *Legends of Light* #2, *Melange* #5 (media), *On a Clear Day You Can See Dagobah* #1, *On the Mark*, *Outland Chronicles* #2, *Perceptions* (Ford), *Rogue's Gallery* (Ford), *Scoundrel*, *Shadow Dance* #1-#2 (media), *Shooting Star* #1, *Sith Yearbook*, *Southern Knights* #1, *Southern Lights* #1.5 (all adult), *Syndicated Images* #1-#4 (Australian media zine), *The Old Republic Reader*, *The Princess Tapes*, *The Princess Tapes: The Prologue*, *The Wookiee Commode* #1-#2, *Universal Translator*, *VHF--The Complete Book of Lyrics* (lyrics to Martie Benedict's films), and *Well of the Souls* #4. Zines listed as "Coming Soon" included: *A Close Circle of Friends*, *A Tremor in the Force* #3, *All That Jazz* (A-Team), *The Baron of Bepin*, *Choice Parts* #1, *Circle of Light* #3, *Dragon's Teeth* (novel by Carol Hines-Stroede), *Eclectic* #2, *Far Realms* #8, *Force Images* (art), *From the Hart* (Hamill), *Guardian* #7, *Just a Coupla Jokers* (Simon & Simon), *Just Deserts* (Rat Patrol), *Late Night* #2-3 (media), *Legends of Light*, *Melange* #6, *Not Just Luke*, *On a Clear Day You Can See Dagobah* #2, *One From the Heart* (Hamill), *1.21 Gigawatts* (Back to the Future), *Perfect Fusion*, Vol. 1, *Perspective* (commentary), *Power of Speech* (commentary), *Prisms* ("encyclopedia of fan universes"), *Revenge of the Sith* (novel by Ellen Randolph), *Shadow Dance* #2, *Shooting Star* #2, *Signs of Wisdom* ("Desert Seed" novel by Carol Mularski), *Southern Knights* #2, *Southern Lights* #2, *Southern Seven* #1 (B7), *The Complete Zeek*, *The Enemies* (Vader), *The Leading Edge* (SF&F), *The Millennium Falcon Casebook*, *The Monocle* (Wizards and Warriors), *The Princess Tapes* #2, *The Wolfhawk Tapestry* (Ladyhawk), *The Wookiee Commode* #3, *Thousand Worlds Collected*, *Vertigo* (media), and *Well of the Souls* #5. Listed in the "Other Worlds" section were: Texas Rebel Alliance and Archaeological Society (Lucasfilm fan club), sf magazines for sale, buttons made to order, celebrity photos for sale, ad for Conzineence (Jeanine Hennig's zine con), several zine sales, people looking to buy used zines, George Lucas Appreciation and Admiration Society, Walk of Fame star for Harrison Ford, and VHF (Martie Benedict's films). There were also eight changes of address listed — a lot of folks moving this time!



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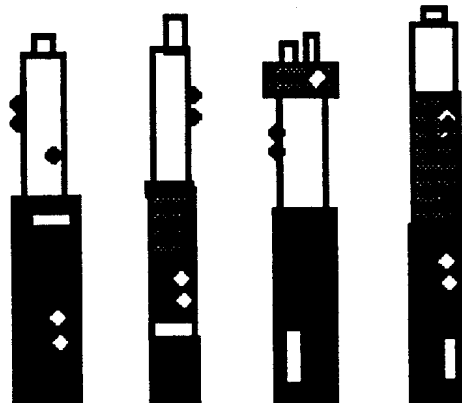
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STAR aWARDs Ceremony MediaWest*Con 15

(L. to R):
Liz Sharpe,
Carolyn
Golledge,
Carol
Hines-Stroede,
Arwen
Rosenbaum



Front:
Kathy Agel,
Nora Mayers,
Sheryl Haven,
Ming Wathne

Back: Arwen
Rosenbaum,
Marti Schuller

(L. to R):
Nancy
Stasulis,
Arwen
Rosenbaum,
Marti
Schuller,
MJ Mink



Judith Yuenger
preparing to
hand out the
Star Awards

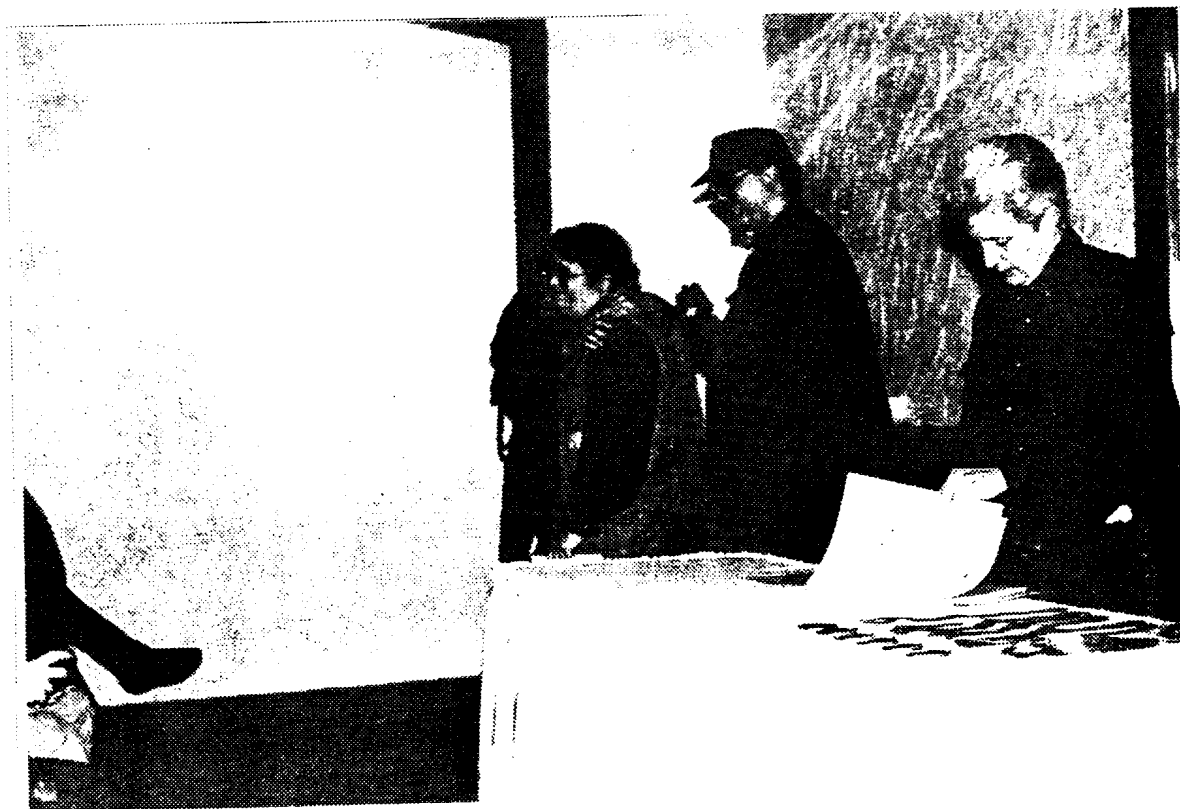
(L. to R):
Cheryl
Kaiser,
Melea Fisher,
James
Casselbury,
Judy Yuenger



(L. to R):
Carol
Hines-Stroede,
Cheryl
Kaiser,
James
Casselbury



(L. to R):
Nora
Mayers,
Cheryl
Kaiser,
James
Casselbury,
Judy Yuenger



(L. to R):
Cheryl
Kaiser,
Pat Grant,
James
Casselbury
Judy Yuenger

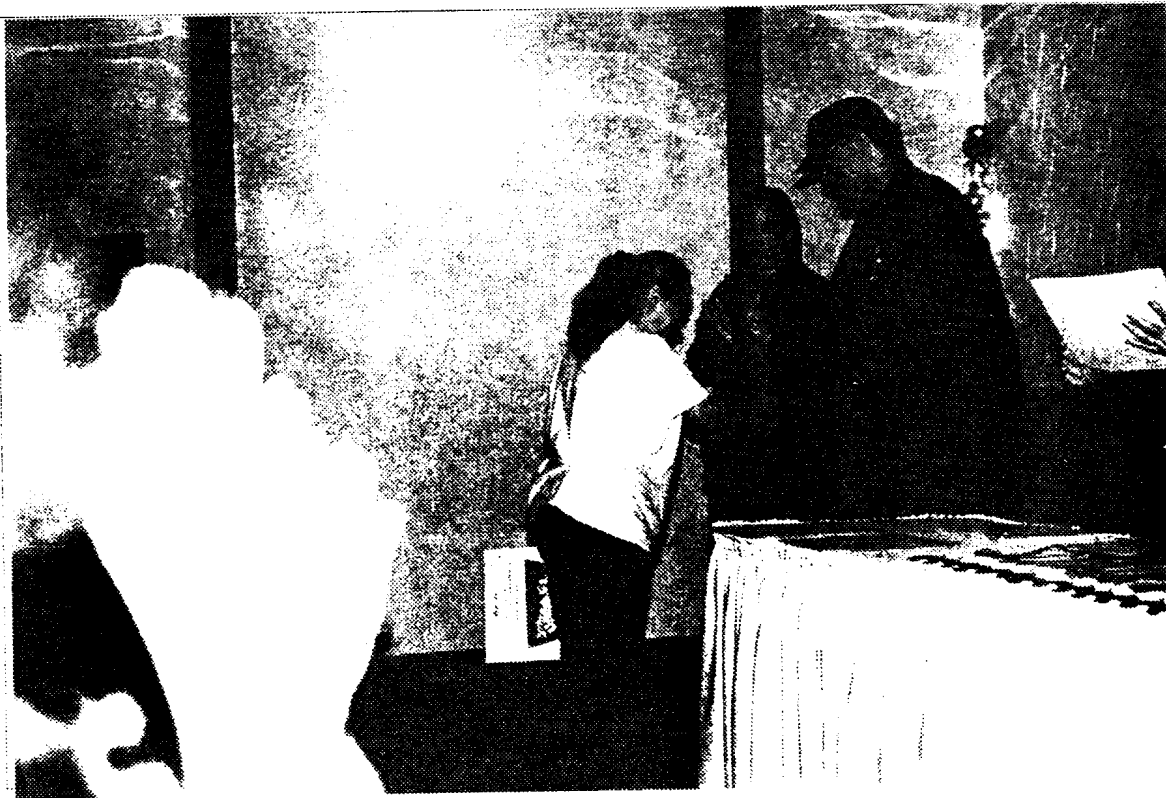
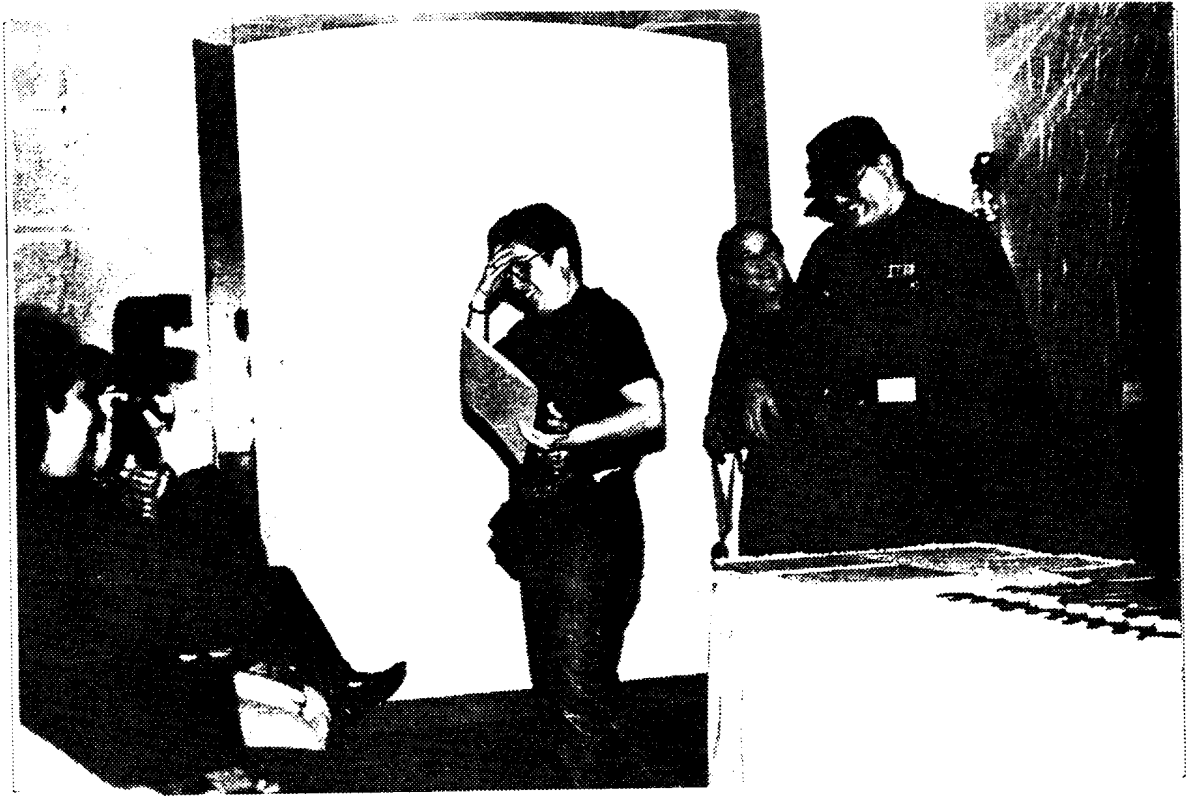
(L to R):
Nancy
Stasulis,
James
Casselbury,
Judy Yuenger



(L to R):
Veronica
Wilson,
Cheryl
Kaiser,
James
Casselbury



(L to R):
Jennifer
Moore,
Cheryl
Kaiser,
James
Casselbury



(L to R):
Z. P. Florian,
Cheryl
Kaiser,
James
Casselbury

(L to R):
Marti
Schuller.
James
Casselbury



(L to R):
Sue Zahn,
Cheryl
Kaiser,
James
Casselbury

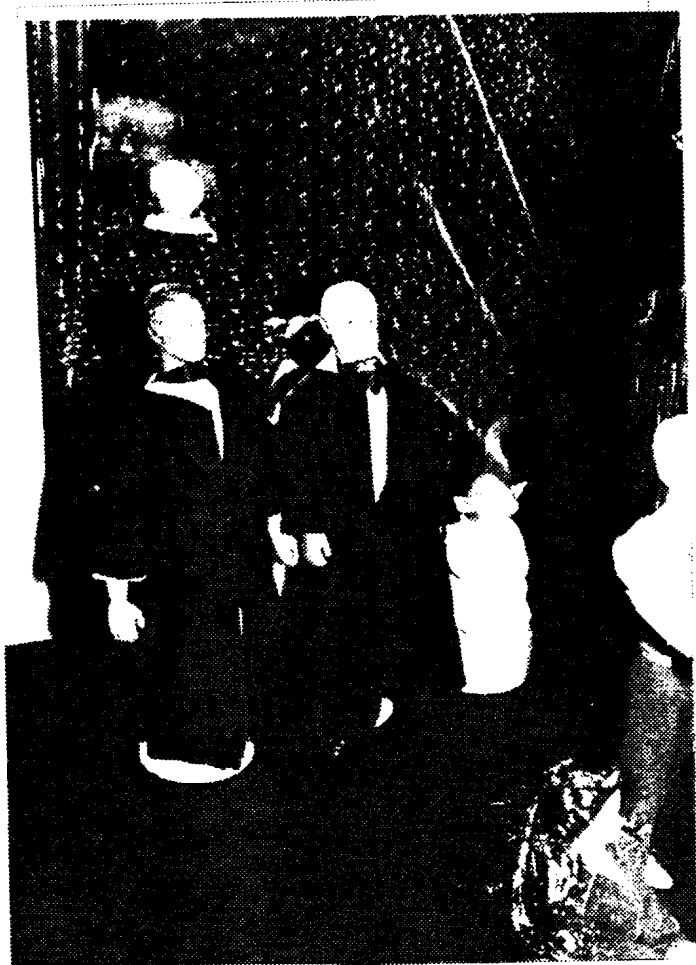
A LOOK AT THE SW DOLL DISPLAY
BY THE DEAD BOTHANS



Han and Leia's Wedding on Endor



The Wedding Night! What IS Han doing with that teddy bear??? Also, note the Ewok peering in the window and the basket of condoms by the bedside!



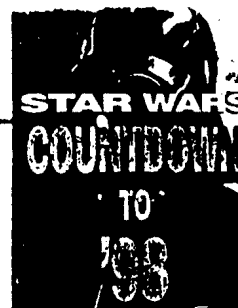
The Three Jedi -- Anakin Skywalker, Ben Kenobi and Yoda



Ben Kenobi presides over the birth of Luke and Leia



The Rebel briefing before the attack on Endor. How many faces do you recognize?



THE GREAT LIGHT SABER WAR

If Luke Skywalker built his own light saber, why can't you?

Luke Skywalker and Darth Vader laid down the law with light sabers and, after *Star Wars* premiered in 1977, every kid had to have one. Companies across the world met this demand by flooding toy stores with cheap, sometimes shoddy, replicas of the swords referred to as everything from laser swords to light sticks.

As a result, Lucasfilm soon developed a reputation as one of the toughest licensors in the world by enlisting the help of U.S. Customs Service to stop the import of unlicensed swords. By 1978 the flood had subsided into a trickle that continues today.

That trickle is made up of lone craftsmen making beautiful recreation of light sabers. Some of these craftsmen sell the swords through catalogs and at science fiction conventions. Their prices range from \$200 to \$600 although the raw material for the swords can cost as little as \$25. In fact, one can pick up the raw materials that George Lucas used to build his light saber in any antique camera store. The hilt of the sword is a flash attachment to a Grafflex camera, popular in the 1940s.

Model maker Chris Pappas bought his first Grafflex attachment for \$50 and it took him a month to make his first light saber for fun. Now he makes them for profits, selling them for \$395 a piece. This year he is making his knowledge available for anyone with \$19.99 by selling his blueprints for light sabers.

He says that distributing the blueprints is only his way to spread enjoyment through the fan community. "There are plenty of people who couldn't afford light sabers but who really want them, so I've made this

available to them," he says.

Pappas insists that his sideline is anything but a big business. Even though Grafflex flash attachments cost a fraction of the sword, he says the sword's price reflects the amount of time and effort he puts into making his light sabers.

"I bust my ass Saturdays, just to find two Grafflex tubes," says Pappas. The long search for increasingly rare Grafflex parts is only part of the process. Pappas says that sword makers have to spend long hours cleaning 40 years of grime from the parts. Then they have to take even more time crafting the other parts of the sword out of resin.

Although some fans complain about the gap between Grafflex prices and the cost of the swords, others say that any price is right—just as long as consumer demand for the sword continues.

"A lot of fans have a single thing on their minds—buying collectibles," says Laurie Carpenter, who owns Galactic Trading Post in Beverly Hills (which does not sell the unlicensed swords). "If they see something they really want, the price doesn't matter."

Prices are only one issue in the world of light sabers, copyright infringement is another. Lucasfilm has a patent and a trademark on the light saber. One of the duties of the company's licensing department is to enforce that patent.

"We've been very supportive of fans and we have not cracked down on fan activity, but when people cross the line and make profits from our properties, that's when we come down on them," says Howard Roffman, vice president of Licensing at Lucasfilm.

This warning does not faze some sword makers. One Orange County,

California craftsman has been selling light sabers since 1977 and has received two cease and desist orders from Lucasfilm. He received one in the late '70s and another in 1994. He has ignored both orders. "They're just scare tactics," he says. "They'll never go against someone as small as me." The craftsman did not want his name used for the article.

He says that he steers clear of copyright infringement through a loophole claiming that by naming a light saber something else, in his case an "S. Wars Light saber," or by slightly altering the his product from the original, he is making a different

"We've been very supportive of fans and we have not cracked down on fan activity, but when people cross the line and make profits from our properties, that's when we come down on them."

—Howard Roffman, vice-president of Licensing at Lucasfilm.

product. Craftsman Chris Pappas says he doesn't try to pass his swords off as originals, nor does he package them with any *Star Wars* pictures.

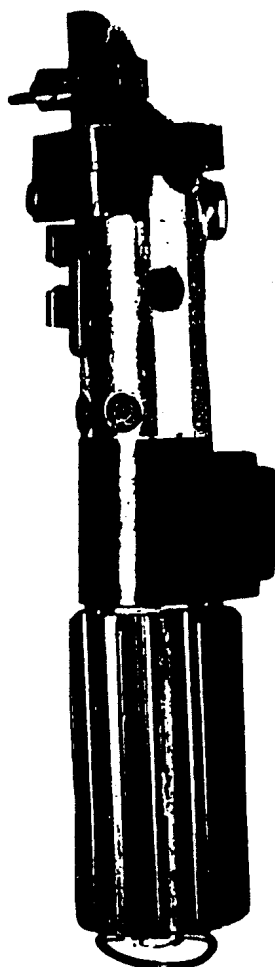
Roffman, however, says that such craftsmen violate the law—even if they change the name or slightly change the shape of the sabers.

The law can be very particular in the area of trademark infringement, claims Bruce Hosmer, a lawyer for the

Licensing Industry Merchandisers Association. "First you must look at all the property rights and figure which ones are exclusive to the property," he states. "Then the owner of the property can take legal action. If some aspects of the property

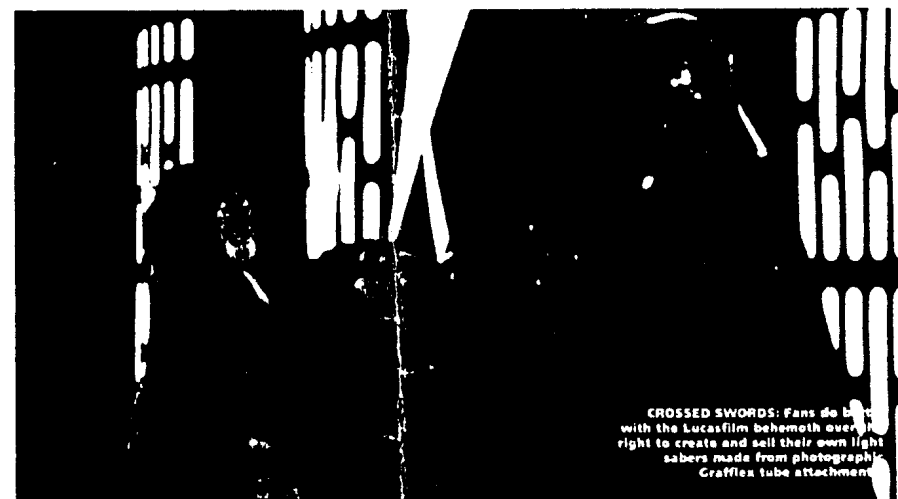
are in public domain then you have issues outstanding that it's free for anyone to use."

Despite legal arguments, independent sword makers may become as antiquated as moonshiners soon. Roffman says that since *Star Wars* merchandising is increasing in popularity again, there are new plans to license light sabers once again in the near future.



TREAD LIGHTLY: The original light saber prop currently being duplicated by ambitious fan craftsmen.

40 months to May 25, 1998



CROSSED SWORDS: Fans do battle with the Lucasfilm behemoth over the right to create and sell their own light sabers made from photographic Grafflex tube attachments.

Reviews

BLUE HARVEST

Edited by James Addams and Mary Jo Fox;
Published by Tydirium Multimedia; usually
32 b&w pages; 8 1/2" x 11"; published
three times a year; five issues published to
date; sample copy \$4 postpaid from Mary Jo
Fox, P.O. Box 215, Vienna, VA 22181

This *Star Wars* fanzine is for heavy-duty *Star Wars* fans. That includes us. We buy all the new hardcover and paperback novels as they come out. We buy *Star Wars Insider* and *Star Wars Galaxy*. We have the special edition laserdisc boxed set. We've even talked about devoting an issue of *Spectrum* to *Star Wars*. Maybe we'll get around to it one of these days. So we were thrilled to learn about *Blue Harvest*, produced by a couple of David Lynch fans, to boot!

The publication gets off to a rough start, but by the fifth issue (actually, each issue is called an "episode" for some strange reason, so five "episodes" have been published to date) they're getting more and more in sync. Mary Jo Fox has an interesting series of columns on television and film projects influenced by *Star Wars* (*Battlestar Galactica*, *Battle Beyond the Stars*, etc.). The third issue contains a nice interview with Tony Akins, artist of one of Dark Horse's *Star Wars* comic book series. (Don't they seem to have about twenty such titles nowadays?) Also in the third issue is an enjoyable (but too short) re-evaluation by

SPECTRUM RATING SYSTEM

We're adapting our television rating system to use in our Review section. The donut rating comes from our love of the *Twin Peaks* television show (which is the subject of our other magazine, *Wrapped in Plastic*).

••••• - The best possible of its type. The pinnacle. A hot bath followed by a long back-rub. To borrow from Anselm, "that than which nothing greater could be conceived" in its category.

•••• - Pretty darn good. A long hot bath, but no back-rub.

••• - Enjoyable. A refreshing, but brief, shower.

•• - Barely passable. You stub your toe getting into the shower.

• - Forget it. Your water's been shut off because you forgot to pay the bill.

☹ - A meteor destroyed your mobile home. You don't know whether to laugh or cry.

We thought it would be fun to begin a *Spectrum* review section. We know, we know, every magazine does reviews. But these will be different because, uh, well, because they'll be our reviews!

Most of the material reviewed here will probably have fairly high ratings. It isn't that we indiscriminately like everything. It's just that it's more fun to write about material we're excited about. And since this section has no requirements—we can review or not review whatever we want—we've decided to have a good time with it!

Randal Yard of Marvel's *Star Wars* comic book series. In the fifth issue, Yard briefly maps out the four-thousand-year SW saga (including the films, novels, and comic books).

And reviews—lots and lots of reviews, from the new SW novels and related books (such as the amazing *Tomart's Price Guide to Worldwide Star Wars Collectibles*) to the older Topps trading cards and bizarre record album tie-ins (who could forget *Star Wars and Other Galactic Funk* from Maco records in 1977?).

The writing is generally competent and stakes out a middle ground—neither fawningly sycophantic nor boldly analytical and academic. Occasionally, an article misfires—for instance, Fox's strange article "Writing Hip Fanfic" that delineates how to improve one's *Star Wars* fan fiction ("Really long original character stories get old after a while," "Don't try to be too science-fictiony," "Avoid gimmicks," "Be original"—you get the idea), or Yvette Ghilan's essay on love in the SW saga. And we've made a solemn vow never to read fan poetry (and as little professional poetry as possible), so we admit to skipping a few items in the issues.

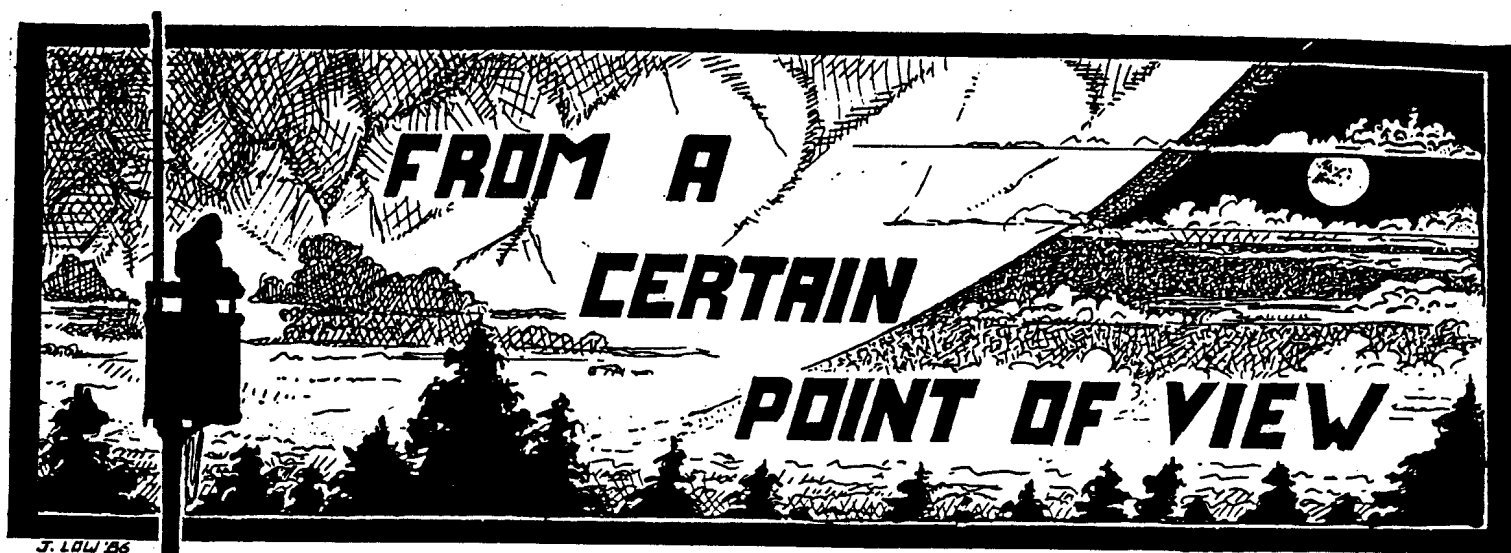
The design and production is good and getting better. At times there is too great a fascination with computer graphics tricks. For instance, in the news section, each item is printed in a different font, including some bizarre ones that are barely readable. Still, the overall look of the zine is improving dramatically, so the editors are clearly working out many of the kinks of the early issues.

As *Star Wars* fans look forward to 1997 (the proposed release date of a refurbished version of the original 1977 film) and 1998 (supposedly, the release date of the next new film in the series), *Blue Harvest* is one publication they might want to check out in the meantime.

RATING: ••••



Spectrum 35



THE LAST JEDI

Jacqueline Taero
Terra, Sol System

M. J. Mink: What a delicious can of worms you've opened up! And you're right. Most of the references to the Jedi do tend to reveal fear, derision or contempt. Interesting, isn't it? And another thing: If the Alliance was so pleased to have the Last Living Jedi (trainee division) in its midst, why not call attention to the fact? Why give Luke a generic military title instead of calling him, for example, Jedi Skywalker?

Come to think of it, there's little to indicate that the Alliance itself had much interest in Luke *as a Jedi*. They were glad enough to have another hot-shot pilot on the roster, and they were perfectly willing to be the beneficiaries of his skills, but did the Alliance even care that Luke had Jedi talents? When Luke was stranded in the snow, no one said, "Force help us, our Only Jedi is about to freeze to death out there and the cause will be lost without him." The only concern displayed was for Commander Skywalker, just another member of the Alliance, and he was saved by a friend for friendship's sake. A few people stood around wringing their hands and looking worried, but the Alliance did not mount an all-out search effort to retrieve its supposedly precious Last Living Jedi. Basically, they shrugged and decided to wait until morning. If having a Jedi around was as important to them as we've assumed, wouldn't they have been as determined as Han was to find him?

Gerald Crotty: Just when I think I've had an original idea, along you come and tell the whole world... It's not quite the stuff of Arthurian legend, but I have a lengthy poem in a forthcoming issue of *Tremor* which will explain

what *really* happened between Ben, Anakin, Anakin's wife, etc. And I can assure you that every word of it is true, because Darth dictated it to me himself.

Matthew Whitney: Your suggestion that there were no Jedi academies but instead a cell structure which secretly recruited and trained students ... hm, I don't know. If the Jedi were an underground organization, this would make sense. But we have been led to believe that the Jedi were a public institution. I don't think you can have it both ways. Besides, the Jedi seemed to be sitting ducks for betrayal — confident of their position, secure in the belief that they were the guardians of the galaxy, and probably unbearably smug. Setting up a cell-based organization implies paranoia, which is a concept diametrically opposed to the foregoing. If the Jedi had possessed a little healthy paranoia, they probably wouldn't have been wiped out so easily.

Maggie Nowakowska: You gave a very thoughtful, insightful presentation of some fascinating issues, particularly with regard to Han's criminal taint or lack thereof as perceived by persons of different ages.

I can understand why your friend found SW "quaint". The relatively clear-cut good vs. evil of SW must be as alien to today's youth as the unabashed, unquestioning patriotism of earlier generations seems to some of us who grew up with the Cold War, Vietnam and Watergate. I have dim memories of things I once believed in; your young friends have no such personal reference points to fall back on, only the brutal reality which surrounds them.

Which leads to an interesting thought — logically, there *should* have been as much of a reality gap between Luke Skywalker and Ben Kenobi as there is between your perception of Han's criminality and Yolanda's view of it. Ben Kenobi is talking about a misty past of which Luke has no personal knowledge. Kenobi waxes romantic about the lightsaber as "an elegant weapon" belonging to a better

era. (Elegant? That's a curious choice of words. The lightsaber maims and kills as effectively as "inelegant" weapons do.) Yet we see no evidence of any generational or cultural gap in Luke's reactions to what Kenobi is saying. Comments?

On a much lighter note: Han smuggling "intellectual property"? I like it. If we make the logical assumption that technology would be controlled in some way by the Empire (consider the encryption debate raging in the here-and-now), there's every reason to believe that a flourishing black market would exist in equipment not sanctioned by the Empire. Instant contraband and a profitable cargo for those willing to take the risk. "Spice" was probably the brand name of a computer chip Han was hauling, or perhaps the name of an illegal program used to hack Imperial networks.

Re the Emperor and Yoda: Palpatine has no reason to associate Luke with Yoda, whereas he probably knew that Luke was briefly under Kenobi's tutelage. If he ever knew of Yoda's existence, he probably assumed that the Little Green Critter was long since dead or senile. In any case, he has no reason to connect the two, so the fact that he didn't relate Luke's skill to Yoda's training is certainly suggestive but not conclusive proof.

Tina Inge Bentrup: Re your statement that we know Mrs. Skywalker was "beautiful, kind and sad". Do we? We know that's how Leia remembers her. We *don't* know whether or not it's true. We've been led astray before; who's to say that Mrs. Skywalker wasn't rotten to the core? In recent years, Mrs. Skywalker's pure-as-the-driven-snow goodness has become almost an article of faith in fandom — Mrs. Skywalker as seduced and abandoned maiden, Mrs. Skywalker as wronged wife, etc., etc. Why not Mrs. Skywalker as a treacherous viper who doublecrosses everyone in sight?

The answers to your TESB questions are as follows:

#1 — The reasons for using the Wampa are threefold. First, getting zapped by a probe droid probably would have killed Luke, which would have severely limited the action for the rest of the Saga. Secondly, getting zapped by a probe droid wouldn't have lent itself to that desperate levitation act which, one assumes, was intended to demonstrate Luke's fledgling mastery of the Force. Third, George likes creatures, the more the merrier.

#2 — Why did Vader follow the *Falcon*? A *Falcon* in the hand is worth two in the asteroid field. Vader had a long-range plan which we saw played out on Bespin. It didn't matter who was on the *Falcon* — if Luke was aboard, fine, and if he wasn't, those who were aboard could be used to lure Luke into the trap. Darth plans ahead.

#3 — How did Luke know where to find Dagobah? Kenobi's ghost implanted knowledge of Dagobah's location in Luke's mind during that little hypnosis session in the

snow; ergo, Luke simply "knew".

#4 — Why did Darth bother with the bounty hunters when he already knew where the *Millenium Falcon* was? He didn't know where it was — he knew where it had been. Anyway, the bounty hunters were already on the payroll, and using them helped create a smokescreen in case Old Prune Face was snooping around through the Force.

Anyone and Everyone: Did Yoda know that Obi-Wan was training Anakin? If not, why not? And if he did know, why didn't he put a stop to it? Did he have no inkling that Anakin would go bad? Or did Anakin's possible fall to Darkness fit into some larger plan? What did Yoda know and when did he know it?

What would the long-term psychological effects of Alderaan's destruction be, particularly on those who were children at the time of the event? To grow up with the absolute knowledge that your entire planet could be vaporized in an instant if some idiot pushed a button is not a concept designed to instill a sense of security. What would the psychological ramifications be and how would they be likely to manifest?

What were the political gains and losses for each side as a consequence of Alderaan? Did the Alliance lose the support of previously sympathetic worlds which feared meeting a similar fate? Were there expressions of moral outrage or was everyone too terrified to say anything? Did the Empire realize it had made a huge public relations mistake and try to cover up what really happened or did they announce it far and wide for intimidation purposes?

Did Grand Moff Tarkin have free rein in using the Death Star and choosing its targets, i.e., did he decide on his own to obliterate Alderaan or did he get the Emperor's approval first? What was the relationship between the Emperor and Tarkin, anyway? Nothing in the Saga really suggests that Tarkin was particularly important in the Imperial scheme of things, and yet Vader obeys his orders. Why? And how did Tarkin get to be in a position where the Emperor trusted him enough to put a tool as powerful as the Death Star under his control?



FED UP WITH JEDI CHILDREN

A. G. Steyn
Paul-Ruecker-St. 69
D-47059 Duisberg
Germany

May 5, 1995

First on a personal note. Reading my way through the latest issue of SE, I was stopped by a photo showing the very sympathetic face of an elderly gentleman. Wondering who he was, I began reading and only then realized that I was actually reading about your father. I was very saddened to learn about his suffering and death. My father, age 71 and still his old optimistic self, has been diagnosed with an inoperable lung cancer (how fast it will consume him ... nobody knows), and two of my closest friends just lost their father and mother, respectively, due to severe illnesses. So I know what you and your loved ones have gone and are still going through. The worst part is always seeing a beloved person suffer and being unable to do more than hold hands and grope for comforting words, and realizing that the end is inevitably drawing near. It was the right decision to let your father go, Cheree, and I only hope that when I will have to face this problem, I will find the inner strength to do so, too. My thoughts are with you and your family. ((*Ed: Thank you so much for your kind words. I grieve for you, too, knowing what you will be facing. The best thing about our fannish community is that you can take comfort in knowing so many people care about you. Best wishes to you.*))

It is difficult to go on to happier things now, like the LoCs after this sit-downer. So where do I start? Maybe by telling you that it's almost summer here, with lots of sunshine, temperatures of about 80°F and all the trees in bloom (to the hayfeverish side of the Force, "Gesundheit").

By now all of you have heard the cowbells ring in the old hayloft about Lucasfilm planning a *big* event in Orlando in 1997. Good Force willing and the Rebels don't rise, I will be attending. Who else? Let's just hope King George, the Nontalkative One, will inform us early enough about dates, events, locations, etc., so we can make the necessary arrangements. Uh, we don't have to come in full fighting regalia, do we? (Where are those darn English riding boots of mine? Anyone seen my black pants?)

Some of you fellow LoCers (or is that "Locos"?) have asked about Mark Hamill's appearance on the Howard "I'm even great with my pants on" Stern show. I got this bit of information from a fan in the US who claims to have seen the show, so I referred to what she wrote me in a letter. According to her, it was quite gross. Not having

seen the show myself (and not too eager to do so) I can only imagine what it may have been like, but it seems hard to understand why MH (or anyone else for that matter) would do something that tasteless — especially while having wife and kids around.

On the subject of kids... Is there anyone else out there just as fed up with all this Jedi children garbage as I am? Can't stand to hear or read one more line about the oh-so-happy-and-Force-gifted Solo family or Luke the teacher. Is it just my unpresuming impression or are the pro- and antagonists of the original SW taking a back seat now to all kinds of "new and improved" characters that lead us farther and farther away from what the canon was all about? Instead of Han, Leia, Luke, Fett, Antilles and all the other beloved characters, we get Zip, Zap and Zilch, the Boomerang Fisheries who of course are all Force sensitive and clearly disguised clones of Palpatine, Vader and Hillary Clinton! Blah! And if we do get "our heroes", what do we get? A wimpy, whining Han. A weak, taking-the-easy-way-out Leia. Threepio as babysitter... And what's more, this is not to be considered simply a spoof or "alternative universe". No, those folks out there in pro writers' land actually mean what they say. Gimme your hat, Piett... I wanna puke in it!

I keep my hopes up, though, that GL will come up with something fresh and surprising when continuing the saga (in either direction ... before ANH or after ROTJ) and not simply bless the pro fiction we are now receiving as "canon". If that sounds awfully harsh, okay. Some of the professional work is okay and worth the money (the *Technical Journal — Tatooine* had some nice rare pictures of the sandfarm and *Truce* was entertaining). But a lot of people these days concocting officially sanctioned stories seem to lack that certain SW feeling. Maybe they should watch the trilogy before starting to write!?!

Okay, now that I've made myself a bunch of enemies (Germans are very good at this. Can't beat experience, folks!), on with the show.

Tim Blaes: If ever you find a copy of that "classic tome of Corellian cuisine" — get it for me. I want to serve Han in every way possible!

Matthew Whitney: Re: Jedi training by Yoda. So far, so good. But that would work only if Yoda's training was infallible. Should Yoda fail and one of his own pupils turn to evil, then what would happen to those "pockets of Light Siders"?

Re: Language in SF/F stories — very, very good point.

Susan Zahn: Ob es mit MediaWest klappt??? Das weiss ich leider noch nicht. Ich hoffe aber weiter. Enough of that. How come everyone is speaking German these days?

Re: Jedi and the New Republic. I had never really thought about this, but you are 100% right. The new government had better not wait for the Jedi to reassemble

when said Jedi were not able to save the galaxy the first time around.

Jacqueline Taero: Re: time discrepancy, Luke and Leia and different times on different planets. You do have a point there, lady, although one would think that there would be (maybe aside from the actual, local planet time) a galaxy-wide synchronized standard time to make military operations, civilian transports and general communication between planets or orbiting ships a bit easier. It's already troublesome enough here on earth to calculate what time it is where when you want to give someone in a foreign country a call. Imagine a galaxy full of populated planets, moons and spaceships all on their very own time (planets even with several time zones!)... Someone get me an aspirin!

Re: Beru and Darthie as lovers. It certainly would make plain why Owen is so darn touchy about the subject and does not allow any talks about Vader in his household.

M. J. Mink: Welcome, "Thigh Master." So, Darthie's face would have sprung back into shape given a few more minutes? Hm, then would you share the sentiment that Uncle Palpie would have regained his firm, smooth skin if only someone had hooked him up to a hose and filled him with pressurized air? ("Watch me unfold. I'm full of hot air!")

Maggie Nowakowska: Re: "fragile" Luke vs. seemingly unemotional Luke in ANH. Could it have been the overwhelming shock of finding his home and foster parents burnt beyond recognition that made the boy react in such a stone-faced, emotionless, Spock-like way? From what I know, there is some sort of self-protective mechanism in the human brain, kicking in whenever we are confronted with something so horrible that doing some clear thinking about it would literally blow our minds. So Luke might have been numbed by what he saw. (By the way, listening to the radio drama of ANH, Luke seems to be much more emotional about the deal.) Luke did take the sacrifice of Obi-Wan, the death of Yoda and of Daddy Anakin not nearly as "easy" as the killings of his uncle and aunt. And just think about Luke's almost violently emotional reaction to foreseeing Han and Leia's suffering in Cloud City ("...they were in pain. Will they die, Yoda?") Luke's casual attitude towards killing... The first time we see Luke fire at someone is when he and his mates are trying to escape from the first Death Star. Here Luke is under great stress, trying to defend himself and Leia, for whom he has warm, but rather unbrotherly feelings at the time. After that, most all of Luke's "killings" take place in battle, when there is actually very little time to stop and think about what he is really doing (=killing people!). The only cold-blooded, unemotional killings I witnessed in the trilogy (and this is just my very personal POV) are those committed by "You will experience respiratory problems

soon" Darthie and "Over my dead body" Solo (the Greedo barbeque). Other than that, killings are usually "emergency killings" or battle casualties.

Gerald Crotty: Re: Threepio... Wonderful if everyone spoke like him? How would you enjoy it if everyone acted/reacted like him, huh? Not possible? Think again, buster. We have a female translator here at our office and she is exactly like ol' Goldenrod — cumbersome, slow, nitpicky, humorless, stiff as a board, whiny, self-pity in person ... and she has a knack for getting on everyone's nerves. (And, yes, I did nickname her "Threepio"!)

Jennifer Moore: Re: "real zines" vs. fanzines. It may also largely depend on what quality the first fanzine a person gets his/her hands on is. A very well made one (*Wookiee Commode*, *Tremor* and so on) can be a real attention getter. A mediocre or even a bad one can be a major turn off. Trouble is that for instance the leading (only?) German SW fanzine contains almost no stories, but just fanclub news about club meetings and musings on what Lucas will do next. The few and far between "stories" are tiny affairs written in such an awful style that one feels reminded of 3rd grade school compositions or the attempts of very young girls to fantasize about their fave Rock/Pop music stars (how she meets him "accidentally" and how he falls immediately in love with her ... the works!). Now, such a fanzine will certainly not get new fans interested in fanlit. And then there are those who do not read fanfic because (I'm quoting a German H. Ford fan): "It would destroy my personal fantasies about the man!" Oh, well...

Tina Bentrup: Re: your various questions...

1. The Wampa was necessary because Luke/Hamill's newly arranged facial features (scars, splayed schnozzle) had to somehow be explained. A direct facial laser zap by the probe droid would have killed the poor baby on the spot. So they brought in the fuzzy one. (Uh, I remember reading somewhere that the Wampa was originally intended to sink his claws into Luke's rump and shoulder [Ouch!] but after shortstuff took this ill-famed "shortcut" off the highway ramp they rewrote the scene, making the Wampa go for Skywalker's mug.)

2. Maybe Darthie mistook Leia's presence for Luke's and therefore followed the *Falcon*? Maybe he knew all along that Luke wasn't on it but planned even then to get the princess and her nerfherder to use them as bait for Junior?

3. Maybe he was on some sort of "tractor beam" — however faint or disguised — and was inevitably pulled toward Dagobah? Or maybe Ben kept whispering directions in Luke's ears? Even R2 might have found an old programming of the route to Dagobah somewhere in his rusty innards ... who knows?

4. He didn't know where the *Falcon* was (clinging

to the hull of the *Executor* at the time). Remember that when the garbage was jettisoned before the fleet went hyper, and the *Falcon* drifted off with the garbage, it was Fett who noticed this and went after the Corellian ship.

For over two weeks we have had the most gorgeous weather here, without any rain. It really doesn't feel like Germany/Dagobah anymore. But lo and behold! clouds are drifting in and for the coming week, cold temperatures and rain have been predicted. Just so we here do not feel spoiled!

Louise Turner: Re: *The Annals of Imperial Rome*. I read that Georgie did actually pattern his saga after *The Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire*. Looks like he took the history of old Rome, threw in the Knights Templar, then blended this with generous amounts of Asian religion and social structures (Samarai — motif in Darth Vader), and finally spiced it with tiny bits of Third Reich Germany/WWII Japan (Imperial uniforms), and all fairy tales he could get his grimy little hands on. Interesting concoction, one must admit.

And finally (happy sigh from dear Ed here): I love the Eclecticon Attendees photo. First I thought, "Oh, another still from inside Jabba's palace." But then I discovered that I actually knew one face — and not from ROTJ. Hmm, must be my poor eyesight. Sorry, people...!

Read you all next time around. Until then, let the Force flow through you — always!

THANK YOU!

Marti Schuller
415 S.E. Annette
Lee's Summit, MO 64063-3403

Before I begin my LoC, please indulge me as I have some personal matters I need to cover. Cheree, you know, I hope, that you have my sincerest condolences on the passing of your father. Perhaps better than most, I understand and empathize with the emotions running rampant in your heart. (For those of you who may not have known, my father died on Nov. 11, 1994 and my mother passed away less than six months later on May 1, 1995.) This past year has been the most difficult of my life and, frankly, without the love, friendship and support of you all — my SW second family — I'm not certain I could have managed. Cheree, I'm sure you know what I mean. I'd also like to give a great big THANK YOU to all who voted for "Lord Vader's Ordeal". Winning the STAR aWARDs medal at MWC meant and means more this year than I can ever adequately express. Somewhere, somehow, I know Mom and Dad are celebrating with me.

And speaking of MWC, I literally arrived there in a pit

of despair and depression, but on the shoulders of my friends I was lifted above it. Nowhere else nor with any other group of people could such warmth, generosity and caring exist. I love you all. My healing has truly begun and you are all to credit. If there's ever *anything* I can do for any of you, never hesitate to ask.

Now, on to SE.

Congratulations, Cheree, on your FanQ [for "Mercy Mission" in *Tremor* #8]! So generous a spirit as yours — not many repeat winners would withdraw from competition in the STAR aWARDs — deserves recognition. It was a super story and I know what the award(s) mean to you. Bravo!

Belea T. Keeney: Re your comment that for those who've been reading and writing SW fanfic for a long time some plot ideas get repetitive. Personally, I don't have this problem. Every writer brings a new idea or puts a new spin on even the most written of scenes, be it Ord Mantell or the Ewok hut wedding night. As someone wiser once said, everything that can be written has been written. That doesn't mean we're all going to stop trying. I take each story individually. So, write that story about a woman sold into an Imperial-arranged marriage. Never let another story prevent the flow of your own creation!

Tim Blaes: All I can say is that your willingness to even consider childbearing is in direct opposition to most men I know. My husband and both sons are openly grateful not to be in a position to be asked.

Matthew Whitney: I really like your interesting idea that when Vader looks into Luke's mind the Dark Lord momentarily sees through his son's eyes. However, I firmly believe that Vader is well aware of the evil the Empire has become long before he is even aware of Luke's existence and is just biding his time before he can take over and set things "right".

Jacqueline Taero: My personal opinions on the questions you posed to Z. P. are so strong that I feel compelled to reply. I have always felt that Palpatine was born evil and not turned as was Vader. I can't see him as Yoda's fallen student. Instead, I prefer to think of him as having been instructed by the Sith — who in my galaxy are technologically advanced sorcerers. I then see him turning on them, using Vader to annihilate his mentors and bestowing the title of Dark Lord of the Sith on his own pupil as sort of a cruel personal joke. This is probably far removed from Lucas' ideas, but it works for my writing.

We do agree, however, on Yoda. He is very much the antithesis of the Emperor and his own master. I see neither Palpatine nor Yoda as including their "lessers" in their thoughts, plans or hopes. And double YES!!! to your astute observations re R2D2.

M. J. Mink: It was terrific meeting you at MWC and getting to know you. I look forward to our rooming

together next year. Welcome, also, to the wonderful world of SE.

"Jedi ThighMaster" — groan, giggle. You are wicked, woman.

Enjoyed your pov re Vader's rejection of evil. True, the definition of that word certainly varies vastly person to person, but I do believe Vader had come to accept that the Emperor *was* evil. I will grant, however, that your point about Vader choosing to save his son was stronger than his turning against Palpatine. Valid argument.

As for the references to the Jedi being "words of fear, not respect", I'm inclined to believe they are more words of derision. Presumably, the Jedi were never large in number, affording few in the galaxy actual contact with them. Disbelief in their skills must surely have been rampant, therefore, even in their heyday. I also feel that the reason the Alliance didn't "cherish" Luke was disbelief. After all, this is a kid from a backspace little planet. I doubt any of us would have given much credence to his seemingly grandiose claims without further proof ourselves. Meanwhile, skilled pilots and fighters were sorely needed.

Likewise, you're correct that no one voices any sorrow over the extinction of the Jedi, but again, supposedly that event took place prior to Luke's birth. Time marches on and people tend to either forget or cease dwelling on what cannot be changed. Do any here still mourn the innocent victims of Jonestown, for example? I'm sure many in the films long for the days prior to the Empire too, but neither is that spoken of openly. Yet, I'm equally certain the desire for older, "better" days remains alive in their hearts — else why such fervor against their enemy?

I do agree that the disappearance of the Jedi probably did cause relief in many outside of those who follow the Dark, but not for the same reasons you stated. It seems to be universal that what we do not know or understand we fear. Certainly, the Jedi were subject to this same ignorant bigotry.

Z. P. Florian: How's it going, Yoda? I *loved* your door replies at MWC. You have a naughty sense of humor, lady.

I'm not sure I agree that Luke had a greater gift of foresight than the others. I think Ben had just closed his mind to even the remotest possibility of Vader's redemption and didn't want Luke to get killed for what Obi-Wan perceived as Luke's naivete. Yoda may have realized that Luke was the *only* one who stood a chance of turning Vader back to the Light and that if such a miracle could be achieved, then Vader would be the only one strong enough to defeat the Emperor. However, he could scarcely undermine Luke's self-confidence by telling him so. Palpatine was too self-absorbed and egomaniacal to believe in less than his total indestructibility and Vader had given up on himself no less thoroughly than Obi-Wan.

Therefore, Luke, with all his sincere and heartfelt beliefs intact was the only real hope for them all.

Maggie Nowakowska: Re your statement that the Luke in ANH was "not devastated" by the sight of Owen's and Beru's skeletal remains, I believe such a sight caused him to go into momentary shock, feeling not violence but horror and revulsion. Later, his memory of that scene set within him the burning desire and determination to avenge their deaths. Though Han and Leia may have seen more violence and killing among sentient beings than Luke, remember his homeworld and its harshness. Certainly most of his life Luke has had to witness and come to accept the realities of birth and death and the often monumental struggle required just to survive from day to day.

I have never seen Luke as "fragile", even in the simplest of writings. Rather I choose to believe he is one of those rare individuals who is truly in touch with his emotions and accepts the need to evince them now and again. The greatest reason I am attracted more to his character than to the others is because Luke is not only a survivor, but a survivor who comes through with his sense of humanity (for lack of a better word) intact. Han is a survivor also, but prior to running into Luke, Leia and company he has been hardened by his experiences, becoming cynical and distrustful. Leia, likewise, is a survivor, but one who seals her heart by pouring all her energy into her cause. Only Luke seems to remain true to himself throughout. Because a man cries now and then does not make him "fragile" but stronger and wiser than one who does not, in my book.

Your point on the differences between pro and fan writing was excellent. One reason I loved writing SW early on was the idea that I could concentrate more on plot, dialogue, etc. since everyone more-or-less knew the characters already. Granted, most SW writers later began to delve more deeply or expand on those characters, but not having to create them initially was a great draw for me as a neo.

I agree also that no one needs ever learn of Luke and Leia's paternity or relationship to one another. I do believe they might choose to confide in a select few, but otherwise I feel they would elect to keep the knowledge to themselves — if for no other reason than the difficulties that would arise for Luke should the information become public.

I also agree wholeheartedly with your superior assessment of Obi-Wan's "truths" speech. Since you stated your case so eloquently, I'll not comment further except to say "Hear. Hear."

Gerald Crotty: Everyone speaking like 3PO?! Please!!! I hear enough whining and "poor me" remarks as it is. No more!

Jennifer Moore: Loved visiting with you at MWC and

congrats on your honorable mention. I told you that you had real talent. Next, the medal.

You're absolutely correct that nearly every SW writer I know has been influenced by others, myself perhaps more than others. Not only have I found my thoughts, ideas and style changing as a direct result of reading so many excellent stories, but the spirited discussions I've had with other fans — writers and non-writers alike — here in SE and especially at MWC has altered my views frequently or at least made me more aware of what I believe and why.

Weren't the Cadfael mysteries on PBS terrific!

Tina Bentrup: Missed you at the con this year. Hope to see you there in '96.

I enjoyed reading your list of questions and look forward to reading the responses. Personally, I haven't a clue. I doubt Vader felt Leia aboard the *Falcon* and mistook her for Luke. As to how Luke found Dagobah, perhaps when Obi-Wan appeared with the instruction that Luke must go there his spirit somehow transferred the knowledge into Luke's fevered brain. (I know it's lame, but I'm tired.)

Cheryl Pryor: Great to meet you at the con. Maybe next year we can find more time to visit and discuss father and son. Loved your door decoration!

Perhaps it was simply the interest Vader felt in Luke that made Luke believe there was hope of redeeming his father. He might have deliberately chosen to ignore the darker aspects — recruitment to the Dark, use of him in overthrowing Palpatine, etc. — that Vader had in mind for him and concentrated instead on the hope that if Vader truly was totally evil he'd have no desire for his son. It might have been only Luke's fondest dream, but we can all be self-delusioned if the need is longstanding and/or great enough, as Luke's was.

Michelle Malkin: Thank you! At last someone else who feels as I do about that Endor Luke/Leia scene. Leia would, should, have had much more of a reaction to Luke's revelation.

I also agree with your remarks re Han and 3PO. Well stated.

Well, I know I've missed plenty of others I meant to comment to, but this is getting long and I'm still recovering from my glorious visit to Lansing. To all the FanQ and STAR aWARDs winners, a huge congratulations and to Judy, who gave us such an incredibly wonderful award and ceremony, a heartfelt hug and "THANKS!!!!". I'll try to catch up with the rest of you better next time. Until then, have a wonderful, safe summer and keep the Force always.

FLOGGING A DEAD TAUNTAUN

Mary Jo Fox
9805 Fox Rest Lane
Vienna, VA 22191

By now Media West would've come and gone. Hopefully, it was fun for all of you that went. I wasn't able to go because I was graduating that weekend. 1996 remains a possibility.

Now that *Snowfire* #1 is all done, I'll start plugging for a second issue! This time, I want to do a zine-within-a-zine highlighting Leia's relationship with Han, but with a twist: I would like stories told from her viewpoint. This is a Leia zine, after all. Nearly every story I've come across about our favorite galactic lovebirds focuses almost exclusively on what *Han's* feeling, thinking, etc. Well, what about Leia? And can she feel anything besides apprehension? This is my challenge for #2. Of course, material on any and all other facets of Leia's life are wanted as well. I have finished one about events during her adolescence.

I don't wish to flog a dead tauntaun, but I have a couple more comments on the pro-fiction ballyhoo. At this point, those who don't like the novels for whatever reason probably won't change their minds. The same goes for those who are enjoying them. I'm just tired of the whole "they're not real fans because they're pros" litany. Making that kind of judgment call just because you didn't like a particular book or comic is unfair. I'm even more bothered though, by the implication that the people who do like this stuff and want to set their stories within that continuity framework aren't "real fans" either, and that their stories will certainly be bad. What a great way to make new writers feel welcome. If a story is bad, it's due to lack of experience, lack of writing skills, an idea that really didn't work, and sometimes, editors who don't care enough to ask their contributors to revise/improve their stories before publication. It's not because somebody decided to include Mara Jade.

That's all I have to say on that, thank you.

Fellow Bothans: Sorry I couldn't make the big shindig at Planet Hollywood. Blame it on Commercial Transactions. From what I understand, the staff is starting to become familiar with you guys. Someday I'll actually make it to one of these things.

Sue: I think jealousy does play a big part in why some fans resent Leia. Unfortunately, jealousy is pervasive in our society, so you have this lady hating that one because she's prettier, or she's skinnier, or she's smarter. Some women who work outside the home envy the ones who can afford to stay home with the kids, while some stay-home

moms envy the ones who are out in the "real" world. And if a woman has a good-looking or rich mate, she often finds herself with few friends. I'm not saying it's true about everybody, but it exists. Even so, it really blows my mind how anybody can envy a *fictional* character that much. It's just so weird.

Z. P.: That's quite a SW shrine you've got! A whole room! What are you going to do when Kenner starts putting out new figures and ships?! Where will you put them all? I really would hate to see what happens to your 12" Luke and Han dolls when you're scheming up a new agonizing adventure for them. That injured Han you showed us looked pretty miserable. At least Carolyn bandaged hers up!

Carolyn: Speaking of which ... how nice to finally have met you! Thanks for your kind comments about "It's Not My Fault." Wait until you see "Luke-A-Palooza" in *Tremor* #9 — I think it's even funnier. Congratulations on the upcoming publication of your story in the *SW Adventure Journal*. I'm looking forward to it. I'll bet it was neat touring West End Games headquarters. You're so lucky!

Maggie: You forgot to mention the totally whacko anti-Luke rants that appeared in the final issue of *Jundland Wastes*. (Thanks to Jennifer Moore, I did read most of the issues). Those were almost beyond description. One letter was so bizarre, I actually fell over laughing. It's unbelievable folks would invest so much into their pet theories and beliefs in a *movie* (of all things), they'd go ballistic when it doesn't turn out they way they wanted it to. It kind of reminds me of *Misery*. The moral of the story? It's real important to keep an open mind on what the future (or past?) holds in the SW universe. I really hope JW isn't an indication of what will happen when Episode One rolls this way around.

Matthew: Hey, welcome back!

Debbie and Cheryl: Too bad I couldn't see all of the doll display. The wedding pictures were cute. I think you guys (time permitting) should've done "wedding invitations," but hindsight is always 20/20. Cheryl, maybe I'll get to see that Vader boudoir next year. He ought to have a picture of you on his nightstand.

Judy: Thanks for helping to peddle my zines at MWC for me. I know there have been a few grumbles about the fairness of the Star Awards from some quarters. To some, it might seem like the same people and zines win every time, and that newer writers or lesser-known zines don't have a snowball's chance on Tatooine of ever winning any recognition. To a degree, this may be true. However, as an editor of two "little zines" and a writer who has been in this game only three years, I really think that you've made the whole voting process as fair as anyone could reasonably expect to make it.

If there is a bias, it's on the part of the people who are doing the voting. Let's face it, the democratic process is at least partially a popularity contest. This is true of the Oscars, presidential elections, class president elections, etc. It's human nature to want to vote for (if not yourself) the zines and writers one is more familiar with and more comfortable with, and there's really no fair way to change that. One can't force those who only want to read stuff about Han to buy and like all the Luke zines, and you can't require those who have been in fandom a long time to read what's-her-face's new zine. (And, I might add, it's not as if the Star Award winners are doing crummy work, either).

If anyone out there wants to make the Star Awards more "fair," then you've got to vote. If you don't vote, then you've got no one else to blame but yourself if that darned zine won for the zillionth year in a row. I heard only 50 people voted for the recent awards. I voted within the first year I started reading this stuff, so being new isn't an excuse.

Sorry, I'll give the bullhorn back to you now, Judy.

Cheree: That was a nice tribute to your dad. You have my sincerest condolences.

TWO SETS OF STANDARDS

Debbie Kittle
11521 Idlewood Rd.
Silver Spring, MD 20906

June 8, 1995

Where do I start? So much to say and so little space to say it in. Well, we've had a couple of SW QVC specials since last issue. Some nice stuff there. And some great news: a budget of \$50-\$70 million per film and George may be directing one of them.

The new SW widevision cards are gorgeous beyond words. The new books *Ambush* and *Children* were both great reads for me. Just got *Assault* and it looks to be a great read as well.

Congrats to all the Star Awards winners. It was nice to see a few more people voted than last year. MW was great fun and the doll exhibit came together better than hoped for and can't wait 'til those pics come out. Any comments/criticisms are welcome.

Our Planet Hollywood/Dead Bothan clan gathering was such wonderful fun. Ten of us descended upon the place and I know they'll never be the same again.

Maggie's last installment of our golden age was very well done. I had gotten that issue of JW a few years ago and was absolutely shocked by the remarks in it. I still

think most of those people saw a completely different movie than I did.

Marti: Good to see you at MW again. I hope you had a good time especially in the boudoir with "them".

Thanks for your honesty re: my question. I still feel it's one-sided (us vs. them) but hope that changes.

I wanted to let everyone know that the male wolf cub I helped raise has been chosen by Disney to star in the movie *White Fang 3*! I have to go and watch my child and see what he looks like.

Amanda: Glad to see you made it to MW. Now start early for next year! Glad I could pick up that pin for you. Deb's Buying Service at your service!

Mary Jo: Agree with your comments to Nora and Judy re: the novels. Congrats on the birth of *Snowfire*!

Carolyn: Congrats on going pro! It was good to spend the weekend before MW showing you all the DB haunts and taking the trip over to Z. P.'s. Hope your trip home was a safe one.

Belea: As you've read in the last few issues of SE, there is a strong debate over the pro vs. fan writing. There is a lot of high quality fan work out there that leaves the novels in the dust but I look at the pro novels as "zine" stories. There have been some fan stories that took me forever to plow through but felt I need to in order to vote honestly.

I don't know if you'll be disappointed by the next 3 movies. I won't be. This is Father George's vision and I look forward to where it will take me.

Congrats on getting the laser-disc version. I want that, too.

Tim: I'd hope that pro writers would want comments. When I wrote Vonda to tell her about her book, she sent me a lovely letter back. I don't know about the others but I'd hope they appreciate the comments.

There are 2 sets of standards. Lucas has blessed the pro-stuff and it's written for a broader based audience. Agree that our reasons for writing/goals in reading are different. Well put.

I could see Leia writing kids' stories.

I'd be interested, too, in what Zahn's detractors would say to him, face-to-face.

Yeah, they did a great job with the EB/SW commercial. Loved it!

Matthew: Welcome back. Loved your comments on pro vs. fanfic. We are more lenient of fanfic — we're friends with most of the people. I don't mind but I hate a double standard.

Agree about the CD set: wonderful.

I have been enjoying *Voyager* but think they have been running too many repeats!

Sue: Howdy. Minutes from the last meeting? They're dead and buried along with the JPark dinosaur.

Always good to have you along on our biweekly shopping trips (yes, I am an expensive date!). I can see us being dead broke Bothans.

It's true the Republic will have to move on with its life while the Jedi rebuild. I would think that before the Purge, there were tens of thousands (or more) Jedi to help. To rebuild their numbers would probably take decades. Perhaps the new government would use the Jedi in a different/expanded role?

Minky: Good to meet/room with you at MW. Hope you had a good time. Interesting remarks you had about the Jedi.

A.G.: I saw that Patrick Stewart interview and I was in stitches the whole time.

Your office was 50 degrees??!! Let's switch jobs. You can work in 80-90 degrees at my work. Especially during the summer with the 3 or more cage dryers going at one time, the temps reach there easily and it's a living hell! The only good thing about my job prior to the vet's (fast food restaurant) was their walk in freezer. I could have lived there!

I had 2 really nice snowfalls this winter. Better than ice but still a disappointment in the whole winter. I was able to take the stuffed tauntauns with Han and Luke in the 8 inches of snow and take my Hoth pics. That was really cool.

Z.P.: Hello. The doll exhibit came out really well this year.

Brian: 72 degrees? That's a heat wave! Did you make it to MW?

Maggie: I agree with your comments about the pro/fan writers. Well put.

Re: your comments about Han's bad/good behavior and fans' attitude towards it — I see it happen all the time on daytime TV. I watch soap operas and it's a prime example of it. New guy/girl comes to town who's bad or at least questionable. S/he commits a crime or 2 and later ends up falling in love with good girl/guy (after the producers are flooded with calls/letters from fans wanting this character to stay) and redeeming her/himself or at least, just sweeping said crimes under the carpet. Later, the truth may come out if it makes good suspense/trouble for the show to get those sweeps.

We, the fans, love these anti-heroes/bad guys turned good. Maybe part of it is the excitement, living on the edge, abusing/ignoring authority. We live out part of ourselves through them. Happened 20 years ago and happen now. Perhaps we believe everyone is good but due to circumstances, they were led astray. But now due to new/different circumstances, their real character traits can come through.

Gerald: That SW con sounds great. It seems we in the USA are going to have our own con as well but in 1997 in

Florida at Disney. For once, it's on my side of the country!

Jennifer: Hello. Guess what??!! They're changing the card holder size again. First, came the regular size, then the widevision, now it'll be a whole page! Lucky us!

I think we made the first 1/2 of 1995 a real winner. Planet Hollywood, TRU, card shows, AU, Suncoast and now the ST cons coming up!

Pat N.: Like and agree with your golfing analogy.

Tina: Missed you at MW this year. :(Hope all is ok with you and Dan. Did you get my letter I sent a few months ago? Sorry to hear about Sebastian Shaw.

Re: Your ESB questions: (1) it was supposed to explain Hamill's facial changes due to the accident, (2) maybe Vader knew that he couldn't catch Luke without a few hostages, (3) good question, and (4) as a back up in case the *Falcon* escaped?

Cheryl P.: Hair-brained schemes?!!??? You will die a slow and painful death (again). Remember in my neck of the woods, I drive and you know I take corners on 2 wheels. I know you did it. Don't blame Cheree. Revenge... P.S. — welcome back.

Mickey: I liked Mark on *SeaQuest*, too as well as the season finale.

Hey, you're on the East Coast so it's automatic to be a Dead Bothan. You are now part of the tribe...

Sounds like you had a great trip.

Louise: Hey, you are more than welcome to traverse the Great Dead Bothan Sea and visit/live in our neck of the woods. We'd love to have you and Squire over. The more, the deader!

'Til next issue, Fly Casually in the Force.

AN EPIPHANY

Barbara Anderson
25-20 Romaine St.
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410

June 12, 1995

Gack ... down to the wire, but I didn't want to miss another issue. Missed the last two issues because of major construction (and destruction) on my house. Walls torn out, ceilings going up, windows going in, rugs going down. At one point, my living room strongly resembled an ILM SPFX test shot! I've also been recently promoted to Assistant Director of Nurses at the nursing home where I work (with all the respect that that implies) A.K.A. lots more responsibility, more hours per week, less time at home. I used to be able to sneak some fannish writing at the nurses' station, but that stolen time is now taken up by new duties. "Look at me, *management*. Who would have

thought that, huh?"

I made it to MediaWest Con, though. That's as sure as vacuum in space. As usual, it was a fantastic, awesome fun time with the most incredibly talented and creative people in the galaxy. I experienced something of a *Star Wars* epiphany during the convention. Amidst all the fun I was having (dressing in SW clothes/costumes all weekend [it's amazing how wearing a blaster on one's right leg transforms one's attitude and personality] role-playing as imagined and real characters in the SW universe, discussing SW stories in rooms full of writers and artists, salivating over all the new SW zines), I had the sudden realization (was sort of like a lightsaber activation) that for *me*, the *Star Wars* experience had lost all its "boundaries", the dividing lines that fans impose upon themselves.

Hmm-mm, this will be difficult to explain. We make a conscious choice of what or whom to dislike/exclude in SW, be it one of the three films, the West End books, fan fiction, the characters, music, the novelizations, *whatever*. We place those restrictions upon ourselves. In previous issues of SE, I myself, have gleefully trashed several of the aforementioned (film, books and character) pointing out all the things that IMO, were "wrong." ("I'm not really interested in your opinion, Threepio.") But, at MediaWest — and *this* will sound tritely maudlin — I was surrounded by the real, true spirit of SW Fandom. It didn't matter who was a Lukefan, a Han fan, who liked Vader, who liked this movie better, or didn't like that book at all. We were all *SW* fans, all with our own unique, individual interpretation of the story, yet, still *ONE*. It was a special moment, bringing with it a profound sense of unity and belonging. I realized there was no "wrong."

Star Wars, I've decided, is like pizza ... even when it's bad, it's pretty good and bad is still better than none at all. There was a time when SW fandom had nothing but its own stubborn perseverance and love for the story to keep it alive. Now, we're positively inundated with "stuff". New music, toys, collectibles and *GASP*, even new movie footage! Who ever thought that miracle would happen? Yet, at one point, I was guilty of actually griping about the paucity and choice of the scenes to be added, instead of reveling in the opportunity to see them at all! So, okay, some parts of some of the novelizations should be used to line the bottoms of mynock cages, but there are good parts as well. Scenes, characterizations and lines of dialogue that I could see and hear as vividly as the films. This goes for anything with the SW name on it. Fan fiction, Ewok cartoons, the infamous SW Christmas special, etc. Point is (at *last*, I hear you say), I'll take *any* SW, anyway I can get it, and thank the Maker that it's out there, no matter if it comes from Wolverton, from the fans or from Lucas himself.

And there is a *lot* out there, especially the All SW

Convention in the works for 1997. I sent in the SW convention questionnaire that appeared in both Lucasfilm's *SW Insider* and Topp's new SW magazine, making the suggestion that the full scale *Millenium Falcon* used in the films be taken out of hermetic storage as a truly awesome exhibit with a walkway for overhead viewing as well as on ground level. I also suggested a contest perhaps, with the winner(s) allowed the privilege of going inside. I know I'd sell *my* family into slavery for the opportunity!

Want to thank the Dead Bothan Society for the recent Planet Hollywood in D.C. invite. Rebecca Carey and I were honored and delighted to be included. Lots of creative energy, fun and silliness (picture ten or so SW fans singing Vader's March (*dumdumdum, dumdeedum, dumdeedum*) as we walked through a cavernous subway station that resembled (to us, anyway) an Alliance flight bay. Good food and great company. Hope to see all at Eclecticon. Ready for another Starlog Kessel Run? The mall is presently undergoing major expansion so parking and traffic will be a horror beyond imagination. Would hiring a small bus/van be a workable idea? (We'll skip the nano-jump to Anderson's attic as Becky and I plan to stay at the hotel this year.

Will end this with both congratulations to all the Star Awards winners. (The Awards are becoming classier and glitzier every year. Before you know it, we'll need an opening production number and a comic monologue and sincere wishes of sympathy and comfort to those who have recently lost loved ones. It's during these times, life's high and low moments, that one discovers how special the fandom "Family" really is. We may argue, criticize, bristle, dig in our heels for a fight, sigh in frustration, but in my experience, there's no other group of people more willing to empathize, more ready to support and encourage or with as much capacity for caring as fans. When it's time to celebrate, when a shoulder is needed to cry on, when the credits are down on the table, fans are there for each other. May the Force Be with Each and every one of us.

NO DESIRE TO GO PRO

Susan Zahn
5485 Columbia Road
Apt 523
Columbia, MD 21044

June 14, 1995

Well, I suppose it would be best to just mention MediaWest*Con now and get it out of my system. The Con this year nearly defies description. Fantastic? Perfect

precision? Long-deserved? Try all of the above. Between winning the STAR aWARD, the Cantina/F.O.E. Dance, the constant communal brainstorming, and various other nifty perks (no editorial comments from the Peanut Gallery, please), I was on a roll! About the only thing missing for me this year was my neglecting to buy a lottery ticket — I just know I would've won! Many thanks to all my friends, new and old (you all know who you are). You made this particular vacation the very best I've had yet. On top of that, Life was also kind enough to wait an entire week following the Con, before brutally jerking me back into reality. But God knows I needed that week of nirvana! (Ahem, the polaroids are in my other coat, Barbara A.)

[I have to mention a special thanks here to my totally mundane but nevertheless totally cool Mom & Dad. They made it possible for me to attend MediaWest this year, after Fate and the local auto repair shop did their darnedest to keep me from making the trip. (And to think that I'd actually *saved up money* for this year — it still fell through!) Anyway, all these years they've held onto the hope that I'd someday forget about fandom, but I think they're beginning to realize how important the pilgrimage to Lansing is. I love and miss you both!]

Congratulations to everyone who received STAR aWARDs this year. It's always a special thrill, to receive such a nod of approval from your friends and peers. Thank you, Judy Yuenger, for allowing us to show our appreciation.

Carolyn G. & Liz S.: It was a treat to spend a day with you two, even before we began the annual migration to Lansing, MI. It was a perfect day to sit, soak up some sun, and yammer on about SW. Thanks for reading over my story — much appreciated. Hope we can do that again sometime. Oh, and you may be happy to hear that I'm almost finished with yet another scene — much shorter, thank the Maker!! (Oops, can I say that?)

Speaking of which, I hate to disappoint you, Carolyn, but after much consideration, I've decided not to attempt to write for West End Games — though I'm flattered that you considered me (I'm ignoring the fact that you've pretty much asked *everyone* in fandom:). As much as I enjoy a challenge when I write (filling a gap properly — i.e. revealing some new tidbit of info or twisting a perspective, without changing future events — isn't easy), I find the guidelines for West End Games far too restrictive — even suffocating. I mean, what a way to kill creativity. I don't want to write color-by-number stories. Besides, my inspirational urge is rare and fickle — if I spent what little time and energy I have on producing something in which I have little invested interest, I'll have none left for fanzines. I'm probably alone in feeling this way, but I have no intention nor desire to eventually "go Pro". Sure, \$600 would be nice, but then I start thinking "That means

I'll have to *buy* that new SW zine!" I know, with \$600 I could buy at least 30 zines, but that's not the point. I like seeing my work illustrated in fanzines. I also get direct, often instant feedback, and that's something I know I'd lose by going Pro. I enjoy writing about elements in the SW saga that intrigue and inspired me (namely the romance, an element that Lucas, *et al*, would just as soon ignore), in my own admittedly unique way. SW is the only thing in my life so far that has ever touched me to the point that I had to *create* something. Since then I've *tried* writing regular fiction/poetry, and none of it has ever come close to the quality of my fannish work — and that's saying a lot. So let me ask you this? Which would *you* rather I write?

By the way, that doesn't mean I'm not happy that you've got a foot in the door, so to speak. You've got my full support (and that goes for anybody else who makes the cross-over), and I hope you get to teach them a thing or two along the way about SW fandom.

Ming W.: Oh, interesting idea on whether or not royal titles can be bought in the SW universe. *Baron* Lando Calrissian? I mean, *really*.

Jacqueline T. & Pat G.: As far as the age difference between Luke & Leia, I had a little trouble swallowing that one as well, but I've sort of come to accept it now — it's in the films, and that's all that counts for me, however misguided or contrived Lucas' solution may have been. And you have to admit, no one's true age is actually mentioned in the films (except maybe Yoda, and I think he was being modest). Frankly, it's easier for me to believe they're 20 year old twins at the time of ANH, than to believe that Leia was a senator at 16.

Brian H.: What happened? I thought you were going to be at MediaWest this year? Change of plans?

Tina (& Dan) B.: I'm sure I speak for everyone who attended the Con when I say "We missed you!!" Hope things are OK. Wir haben so viele Deutsch zu sprechen!

Michelle M.: Thanks for the offer re: Carrie Fisher hosting the saga. Luckily, I now have SciFi Channel myself, and I taped the letterboxed versions w/Carrie. (All of you out there with The History Channel, AMC and Comedy Central, but no SciFi — eat your little green hearts out!)

I also wanted to say how happy I am to see your name in these pages. I still rank the *Kessel Run* series as some of the best SW zines ever produced. You did good, and your effort is still appreciated.

But I *do* remember "Looky, Looky, a Darkside Wookiee". Call it the price of fame.

Louise T.: I agree totally with your comments regarding the selling of SW nowadays. The brutal truth is that the movies were created not only to tell a story, but to make money. Fine, I've no problem with that. However, I don't remember seeing Luke holding a Pepsi can, or

Chewie wearing Nikes, or Leia eating Haagen-Dazs whenever she got moody. I know now that *that's* one of the reasons I enjoyed the movies so much — it was set in an *entirely* different universe, right down to a lack of product endorsements (Ewoks may be a glaring exception, but they were selling SW paraphernalia). As much as I laughed at the Energizer Bunny vs. Vader commercial, it nearly gave me whiplash because it didn't *feel* right.

Oh, and believe it or not, they've begun advertising SW toys on TV again, during Saturday morning. They're not connecting in any way to the pro-novels, which I find somewhat of a relief. They were for the MicroToy collections, all of them based purely on the setting in the films — nothing necessarily new, creative-wise.

I've got to stop now if I want to beat the deadline. Hola! to everybody I didn't get to address directly this time 'round. Catch you later!

LUST

Michelle Malkin
1410 Tyson Ave. 2nd Fl
Philadelphia, PA 19111

June 11, 1995

My friend Judy managed to get us two tickets to the musical comedy "Lust" starring Denis Lawson which is just finishing its run here in Philadelphia at the Walnut Street Theater! This show was delightful and I hope that it eventually makes it to Broadway. I heard that if it was successful it might. It certainly was a success in Philly playing to packed houses filled with delighted audiences. The show was taken from the William Wycherly play "The Country Wife" and takes place at the beginning of the English Restoration when everyone is happily out from under the rules of decency enforced by Oliver Cromwell. The main character Horner (played by Denis) is ... horny! His only goal in life is to seduce all the women — married or not — in his social circle. He manages to do this through trickery, chicanery and the help of his friend the undertaker. By the end of the show, all the husbands are totally fooled, the wives have found out about each other and Horner is well on the way to an early death through exhaustion. There is also a side story about a young man who is in love with a young woman who is engaged to a fop who only wants her for the money he can get out of the deal. All works out hysterically well by the end. The music was done in the style of the day, except for one number that had the audience laughing almost as hard as they did with Denis' naked tush scene. In this number, Horner starts singing to audience and three of the women form a girl

group in the background. Before you know it, they're doing a '60's style rock number. The place fell apart, people were laughing so hard. In the other scene, just before the woman's husband comes crashing through the door, a woman is lying on Horner's bed with him standing over her. Suddenly, she reaches up and pulls his pants down. Lovely view of Denis' backside and, Denis, cheeky boy that he is, didn't help matters any by turning his head back to the audience and smirking. If it's possible to die from laughter, half the audience croaked right there. Aside from other personal attributes, Denis has a very strong singing voice and great comedy timing. This was a terrific show and I hope that it does make it to Broadway. I wouldn't mind seeing it again. I'd also like the album from it, if there is one.

Tim Blaes: It seems rather snobbish of A. C. Crispin to knock fanzines if she's appeared in them herself. I'd rather hear about pro writers like Marion Zimmer Bradley who not only encourages fanzine writers but helps them to become pro by having them write stories in her Darkover universe that she publishes professionally.

I *love* the Darth Vader-Energizer Bunny ad! Unfortunately, I've seen several letters over the Net in which people consider this ad to be little short of blasphemy. Lucas had to okay the ad, so *he* must like it. My comment to the people who don't like it is that they are entitled to their opinion but, if they can't have a sense of humor about the things they love, they must not have a sense of humor. It must get tiresome being so bloody serious all the time.

Susan Zahn: Male/female writing pairs? Right off hand, I can think of Mercedes Lackey and Piers Anthony or her husband Larry Dixon and C. L. Moore and her husband Henry Kuttner. I know there are others. I hope that other people mention them.

Maggie Nowakowska: About Luke's lack of reaction to his aunt and uncle's deaths. I think he was already having an initial reaction through his Force sensitivity (whether he knew it consciously or not) when he first realized that they might be in danger and he ran off to see them against Ben's wishes. By the time he got there and saw their burnt skeletons, he was probably already numb from finding what he already expected. Plus, after years of being put down by the other kids (except for Biggs) and not being raised in a very emotional household, he probably didn't even have to think about holding in his emotions.

Maggie, this was a fascinating letter filled with several heavy thoughts. The one that affected me the most was the one about how we are all capable of evil and must learn to accept this and work with it, rather than refuse to accept it and run away from it, making yourself more vulnerable to it. That is something for all of us to realize, not just Luke.

In the end, no matter what religion or philosophy of life you follow, you have to make that choice (between good and evil) yourself. No one can make it for you.

Matthew Whitney: I'm glad that you decided not to gaffiate. You write interesting letters and sound like a nice person. I went through a really bad patch a couple years ago and, aside from some good friends, kept my sanity through fandom and reading and music. I hope that your complications work out and that you keep on writing to SE.

Cheryl Pryor: Suppose that Luke and Leia *are* the product of rape or eugenics? What if their mother *was* a dummy? They are still Luke and Leia, aren't they? They've still done all the things that we know and like them for. Are they responsible for their parentage? Why should any of this affect how you feel about the trilogy so far if you love it already?

Cheree: Did I spell Wimseycat with an 'h'? It shouldn't be there. The cats were named after Dorothy Sayers books about Lord Peter Wimsey. ((Ed: *Whoops — my fault!*))

That's it for now. Three's the charm. Fly free!

TANDOM FIRST

Matthew Whitney
1003 Allen Street
Springfield, MA 01118

May 15, 1995

My sincere condolences on the passing away of your father, Cheree. Your tribute to him was beautiful, and I find myself wondering who was the luckier, you, for having such a wonderful dad, or he, for having such a caring daughter.

Tim: Thanks for the "please come home" message! I have indeed missed LOCing and the interchange of ideas with the best bunch of SW fans on the planet. I'll try not to let the real world get in the way as much, and keep a priority of "Fandom First!"

IRYC (in re your comment) of holding a "grudge" against A. C. Crispin for her comments about fanfic stunting an author's growth, let me add that she's not very high on my list of respected authors. At the '89 WorldCon (Boston) she was on a panel with Carmen Carter and Jean Lorrah. Of the three, only one author tactlessly stood recently published books of hers before her on the table, and spent most of her panel discussion time advertising which of her novels the fans could buy, where to find them, suggested retail price ... I exaggerate, but not by much. Carmen and Jean were delightful speakers, and I felt a real bond with these fan authors who "made it" into the pro ranks. Crispin's hard sell of her own books turned

me off so much I've never bought another of her books (and she was among a handful of my favored ST novelists at the time).

Marti: Re Lucas' creation of Chewbacca. According to *Skywalking*, wasn't the inspiration his dog Indiana seated in the front passenger seat of their car next to his (then) wife Marcia?

Has anyone seen the new publication *From SW to Indiana Jones: the Art of Lucasfilm Ltd Archives*? It's a gorgeous, thick trade paperback. I've not read the text yet, but the illos will blow you away. For anyone who loves the props, this is a must. The selling point for me was the shots of the breakapart Vader mask from ROTJ.

Minky: (Greetings newbie, from a SW dinosaur), IRYC "Why is it: in the trilogy, no one mourns [the Jedi's] disappearance except other Jedi." To a degree, I think there is a mourning, but not a whining/begging for them to rise up out of thin air. Many rebels still invoke the protection/blessing of the Force. In ANH, Dodonna ends his briefing with "MTFBWY." Han wishes Luke good luck with the same expression. In ROTJ, Ackbar utters that famous phrase. They don't expressly ask for a Jedi Academy to be established and for trained knights to hit the front lines, but I do think calling on the power of the Force to be with them is virtually the same. It's a belief in the power behind the defenders of the Old Republic. Using a religious analogy, it is clearly a prayer. More than just a motivator and rallying cry, it is a prayer to bring special blessing upon their struggle I compare it to Shakespeare's Henry V calling on his troops to "Cry, 'God for Harry, England, and St. George!'" It's a prayer to bring a power beyond the soldiers' mere physical bodies onto their side of battle.

That no one expressly comments on Luke's Jedi-in-training status is important, but more in regards to the future of the Jedi post-ROTJ rather than anything directed specifically toward Luke. In ANH, he was an unknown farm boy. The more experienced pilots probably thought they were throwing away a perfectly good X-Wing on this kid who got lucky aboard the Death Star rescuing Leia. In TESB, he'd spent the last couple of years without any guidance, exploring the Force totally on his own, at least IMO (in my opinion). A general question: Was Obi-Wan's appearance to Luke on Hoth his first since ANH? I think so, but there's room for debate.

If we do assume Luke was stumbling through his own training, then I don't see anyone banging on his door asking him to come out and perform Jedi tricks. He'd be seen as a talented fighter with an extra edge thanks to his natural Force talent, but no Jedi. So, we jump to ROTJ, probably only six-months after TESB. That film starts with Luke, Leia, and the others detached from the Alliance while saving Han. What happened in those six months?

Who did Luke inform about his training on Dagobah? Should the rank and file members of the Alliance expect anything special from him? It's an interesting topic you raised, Minky. The re-establishment of the Jedi should not be looked on as a given.

Z. P.: IRYC that Kenobi never sensed Leia aboard the Death Star. You're right! I don't think I ever gave that a thought. Maybe because at the time we didn't know she was Luke's sister and Anakin's daughter. With that fact now accepted, why didn't he sense her? Could he have "shut down" some of his Force talent in the face of the overwhelming waves of emotion caused by the deaths on Alderaan? Did he assume she'd been killed by the Empire, and couldn't pick her aura out from the "background noise?" How easy is it to sense any one person? Darth recognized neither Luke nor Leia upon their encounters in ANH (or maybe he did?). Could Leia have been Force "blocked" so that her particular aura would not be identified — masking her from both Darth and OWK? Did OWK sense her aboard the DS, but planned to get R2 and his info to safety before trying to rescue Leia?

That last scenario presents a fascinating "What if?" What if Leia had not been rescued from the first Death Star? Assuming the others escaped with R2's info, who would they deliver it to? Perhaps Han could put them in contact with a rebel unit, and a way would be found to destroy the first DS, but it'd be an entirely different story from there on.

Brian: I mostly agree with you on hard copies and the joy of a good book. Ahh, the serendipitous joy of kicking back with a treasured volume (possibly a signed edition!). Pure heaven! But, I believe we're on the doorstep of a new era. It seems reasonable to guess that affordable laptop computers with CD-ROM, or reader/player versions without the full computer capabilities, will be here within a decade or so. Instead of "books," we'll be buying/renting CD-ROMs from our favorite authors. While that seems cold, less "romantic" than *books*, think of the forests it'll save. And those CD-ROM players could double as news sources via the internet (or whatever). Think of the savings in newspaper! It'll take a bit of time before the system will feel right, but I look forward to it.

As for music on vinyl LPs, you'll hate me for saying it, but I say good riddance. The *only* thing I miss about vinyl is the cover art. Those snap-crackle-pops we learned to love on favorite albums may have had their charm, but I for one never looked forward to skips on new albums. Sure, they grew on me for the repeatedly played favorites, but I prefer the clean sound of CDs.

A general comment about "newbie" fans growing in fandom thinking of the pro novels as "canon:" Now I think I know how those first generation Trekkers felt when a second generation came along. How will we in SW

fandom deal with this? Remember the ST slogans such as "Who needs a next generation?" Is "Who needs a next trilogy?" far behind? ST is now more widely watched than when Kirk was the sole holder of the center seat, largely thanks to the films and especially TNG, but how many saw *Generations* and haven't seen all 79 classic episodes? Battle lines were drawn over whether ST could exist without Kirk & Co., and many hard-liners refused to give TNG a fair shot. If a next trilogy is ever filmed, I hope we don't start arming camps or any such nonsense.

Pat Grant: In re the trend to "Earth-ize SW." As you might infer from my LOC, I'm on the opposite side of this issue. When reading/watching a piece of SF/F, few things annoy me more than unexplained alien jargon inserted merely for local color. I want to be included in the story, not befuddled by the author's private encyclopedia of fantastic terminology. If explanations of these terms (which are necessary, I'm not advocating a ban) are part of the story, fine. Footnoting is something I'd really avoid. If an author coins a term for something, say a "zork," then what a zork is should be integral to the plot. If it's of such little importance that the explanation can be relegated to the bottom of the page, I'd rethink creating that term.

Exotic terms are useful in creating an alien/fantastic atmosphere, but I think they can too easily be over-used. My reasoning stems from the fact that we are writing in an Earth language to begin with. Before loading up a tale with alien vocabulary, authors should think of how much English (or whatever) they already are employing. If one isn't going to create an entire language for each species in a story, why must the tale be complicated with translating alien-isms? For e.g., "Han grabbed for a zork." From that sentence, a zork could be anything. Before justifying using "zork", shouldn't an author also justify the verb "grabbing?"

My bias here is probably influenced by my utter lack of talent for languages. I struggled through the two-year requirement in high school, and normally have enough trouble expressing myself in English, never mind creating an new vocabulary. I'm reminded of Tolkien, who was more interested in the languages of his characters than the plot about the Ring, but that stemmed from his linguistic background. His work is the best blend of atmosphere and plot that I can think of, proving you must create some new terms to successfully invent an alien culture, but IMO this is an extremely difficult task, best approached very cautiously.

As for Leia being 18 Alderaani years while Luke is 20 by Tatooine's calendar, that opens a *huge* can of worms. If so, how far is a lightyear? Is it the distance light travels in the time it takes Alderaan or Tatooine or Bespin or ... to orbit their primary star one full circuit? And that is just one example of the complexity that would be unleashed.

I'm not trying to crush creativity, but do feel that we should approach the language and references used as having been grounded in some standard.

How did Lucas & Co. fare in their scripts? Only looking at the films, where the risk is less due to the visual nature of the medium, I'd rate them very successful. E.g., Luke looking at a pair of shaggy elephantine creatures, saying, "There are two banthas..." It's obvious what a bantha is. How about his mention of womprats? We never see one, but I'd bet most focus on "rat" and conjure an image of a large desert rodent. Similar with "droid," where the term is used more broadly than we might. IMO the term was chosen to include the viewer with a widely used colloquial term for any sort of robot. Using a nickname made robots common, everyday devices, rather than the cutting edge of futuristic technology they are in our culture. Plus, it's a fun sounding term. The same with "parsec." (How many knew what a parsec was before seeing ANH? Not me, but I was "a mere child" when I first saw the film.)

I've probably beat the point of this discussion into the dust, so I'll drop it here. My intent is to preach caution in adding "local color" to a story. Overdoing it, I feel distracts the reader from the plot, while avoiding it completely leaves the tale too dry.

Time to give Cheree's tired fingers a rest and wrap this LoC up with a hearty MTFBWY!

JEDI BUSINESS

Maggie Nowakowska
2330 Federal Ave. East
Seattle, WA 98102
E-mail: M.Nowakowska@GEnie.geis.com

June 15, 1995

Boy, this year I was all geared up for writing. Was going to finish two Lando/MMothma stories, and try to finish the new TW, post-*Counterpoint* story. Had the energy, had the interest, had Susan gone at class (i.e., away from the computer <g>) each Saturday in winter quarter...) If only I had had the time! Overtime has been a killer this year, often two and three straight weeks and weekends in a row. Today's one day off in what looks like another 3/4 week stretch. Feh. In fact, double Feh.

However, too much OT and not enough energy for *serious* reading has allowed me to catch up on some of the pro stuff. As I expected, I enjoyed Vonda McIntyre and Barbara Hambly very much as writers (especially, *Children of the Jedi*), even when I disagree with this particular

alternate universe. It's a shame that the pro books came out so fast, with so many of them written in pretty much the same time period. Hambly's book presents such reasonable characterization that I can't help but think that it would have positively affected the other books had they been written after hers had been digested.

My general complaints with this AU are that the adult characters aren't aging consistently; that the presentation of Han and Leia is terribly mundane; that they've boxed Luke into such a super-duperman corner that all they can do to create suspense is to throw bricks at him and track how long it takes him to heal himself (a good subtitle for the way they present Luke could be "There Is No Joy In Jediville." Of course, fanzinedom had to work a Morose Luke out of its system, too); and — worst of all by my lights — Lando deserves millions better than the way they've presented him. I don't recognize their childish loser at all.

As for the continuing disagreement over the pro books, I'd like to throw out a challenge to all the English and Lit majors out there: how about an article which is analysis of pro and fan lit with an eye to what makes the focus/themes/delivery different between the two? A pro romance writer recently complained that "literary criticism doesn't have the tools to analyze popular literature." Maybe it's up to us after all to describe the standards in language that can be used by others. We're the only ones who can truly say what sets our literature apart from other SW-based pieces stylistically, subject-wise, expectations-wise, etc. I know I'd like to read a reasoned assessment from a writing/goals/audience point of view.

(My fannish opinion is that pro writing is mundane fan writing and that the difference is the same as that which makes active fans different from mundanes: a cock-eyed view of reality which most people don't get — or want to get. In the end, we remain "outies," "weird," "wonks," etc. And isn't it interesting that we've gotten to the point when there are indeed "mundane fans" as well as those of us who have been "in the trade" all along. But that's another subject...)

(BTW, reading on in SE 41, I see that Tim Blaes has already started a good analysis!)

(Addendum: I am reading the *Courtship* book now, not terribly enjoying the characterizations, but I really like the idea of the *Falcon* have three droid brains that "bicker" which is one reason why Han has trouble keeping all systems up and running. A person could really run with this idea. I think it would be a good subject for a multi-writer short story challenge.)

Marti Schuller: The loneliness of the neo-con-goers is one of the reasons I always like the idea of first night, come-ye-all parties where people could meet folks before they joined up with established groups of friends. Of

course, the cons were smaller back then ... but I do remember a number of great Thursday/Friday night, everyone invited, parties that got things moving quickly. (Especially I remember Bev Clark, Susan and I ganging up on people with various NW delicacies at our party — you know, the old "it's the hostess offering this to me and I gotta eat it..." ploy. I think that was the con when the boys mounted a Corellian streaking party — in trunks with fine upstanding Corelli shields on the front ... I think there was some closet activity with the boys that evening, too ... ah, memories.

As for the possibility of a Soupy Sales connection: I believe Lucas was born in the mid 40s (he's 50 or 51 now, right?); wouldn't Soupy be a little late for him? I remember Sales coming on after Pinky Lee and I was 5 already, making Lucas 9 or 10. An awful lot of folks I know who lived out in the boonies out west (and Sacramento is still the boonies, she said editorially) didn't even have TV until the mid 50s. I might be misremembering; I disliked Sales as a kid.

Debbie Kittle: You're certainly right about the improvement of manners in LoCs since the old days.

Rather than manners, though, I think what I meant about "hesitation" in fans since those controversies erupted was this: a reluctance of fans to bring up subjects — however legitimate — that they suspected would upset others. I remember an awful lot of people saying, either in letters or in person, that they would have loved to talk about A or B, but feared the feedback or "starting another feud." For a while there, the discussions became amazingly bland. Ideas had come to be seen as totally personal preferences, and you can't discuss preferences the same way you can ideas.

I suppose it's the old pendulum swing reaction, from one extreme action to its opposite extreme. I wouldn't natter on about this but for a couple reactions to the current debate over Pro SW fiction. In her LoC, Pat Nussman says she's more than willing to shut up about her disappointment in/criticism of pro fiction if the debate causes too much controversy. What a loss that would be! Pat is an excellent writer and a responsible critic; whether a reader agrees with Pat or not, the reader is certain to acquire new information on the subject for having read Pat's opinions.

Let's all engage hesitancy when we're tempted to be judgmental, certainly, but never when simply presenting ideas that might be controversial. I firmly believe that we can disagree with each other 100% (okay, 98% since we all like SW enough to LoC) without slipping into the *ad hominum* attacks, or insults and exclusionary behavior, of the old days.

Belea Keeney: Arg! I'm consumed by jealousy! I would *love* to have the laser disk set! I'd love to simply have a laser disk. Double arg! Re: the extent of Vader's

cybernetics, in the film it appears that both his head and chest region are corporal, with the rest mechanical. Is it so on disc?

Welcome back to Matthew Whitney: I missed your well-thought out letters.

Susan Zahn: I'm glad you were able to get a set of *Jundland Wastes* on the cheap! And I'd love to read a "review" from your nonparticipant PoV. By the by, this is strictly an unofficial comment, but I was told by SW Fanclub folks long ago that *Slow Boat To Bespin* simply got caught up in the troubles because it came out at the same time as the stories that really fried the LF lawyers. My contact expressed regret because, as you noted, the stories weren't really challenging, even by early 80s standards.

RE: reestablishing the Old Republic. I agree that the new government is going to be different. Circumstances change and needs differ with time. I've always had problems, though, with the inclination that says, because it fell, the Republic *ipso facto* "failed."

Yes, the inability to withstand attack/overthrow/aggression can be the result of something going wrong. But, the tendency to equate success with virtue or worthiness can be considered culturally specific. It's very Calvinistic, very Jansenist, but not an automatic equation in human thought.

Please indulge me in this analogy: If I let my iron skillet get crusty and then scrub it with soap and let it air-dry, it's not going to perform as it ought the next time I try to use it. The food will stick and burn. My neglect will lead to a failure. That the pan will not cook properly does not mean I have to toss the skillet out and buy a different sort of utensil. If I do the work and take the time needed to reseason the skillet, it will cook correctly again.

With people, as with design, structures are appropriate or inappropriate, applicable or not applicable. Democracy (of free males) worked in ancient Athens. And then it "failed." The Roman Republic worked for a couple hundred years, and then it "failed." If we judge backwards to these examples, who would attempt a democracy or republic again? The German Republic before Hitler was a fragile construct, operating under impossible conditions after WWI. Germany as we know it today had existed for only, what, 75 or so years? Ms. Sten, any comments?

The galactic Republic existed in some form for 10 to 25 thousand years, depending on interpretation. Not even the Roman model applies timewise then, although it works better, considering the limitations of human memory.

I read something recently that struck me as a variation on Yoda's DO/DO NOT phrase: *There is no such thing failure. There are only results.* The author went on to explain that successful people don't believe in failure. If they try something and it doesn't work out, they simply

consider it a learning experience; they take what they've learned and try some other way to their goal.

That's how I suspect the Alliance people look at the Republic: the previous way of going about it wasn't effective, but the goal was still sound.

For me, I'm more inclined to look at the Republic from a Chaos perspective, one which defines certain parameters of action, but allows a wide, and unpredictable, range of expressions within those parameters. That is, the Republic was the outer structure, the stadium, let's say, within which many different games were played, some with wildly different rules, but all subscribing to limitations that allowed play within that stadium's parameters. One millenium it might have been a commonwealth; another millenium, an autocracy; and so forth.

If the Republic lasted 1,000 generations, I tend to think that it's safe to say it was a pretty flexible structure. I can easily imagine that the structure of government within the Republic as interpreted by varying generations differed greatly, sometimes swinging to the very edge of Republican parameters. It's possible that Palpatine was able to succeed because he lived during one of the more extreme swings (autocratic, I would guess by the Pro books interpretation).

In such a very old galactic civilization, I suspect people will remember that extremes aren't the norm. They would be interested in patching the hole the swing punched in the parameters and hoping to guide its developments along a more stable path.

Of course, that will take at least as many generations as grew up under the deviant government, and then a few more I imagine, and that's why all the post-JEDI stories can't be as "heroic" as the battle times. But they sure will be interesting on a personal survival level!

M. J. Mink: Ah yes, Adam Cartwright. The only man on TV, before John Drake, who expected people to use their intelligence. (Hokay, maybe Paladin, too. Had I known about cross-universes when I was a kid, I would have written one up for them.)

I've got to admit, I never thought of Adam as bad, merely unsocial because he didn't fit in with local, miner/cowboy expectations of a Real Man. As the local, Cleveland 11-year-old book nerd, I desperately wanted to grow up to be someone Adam would approve of and have as a friend. (I liked Paladin for many of the same reasons.) I can't say that my first fannish stories were about Adam — Roy Rogers many years earlier wins that medal — but they were the first I wrote down. And, boy, did I get him off the Ponderosa and over to Europe and Russia and ... oh, sorry, wrong fandom.

Moving right along (and quickly!), I think I would argue against the idea that the Alliance's reaction to Luke reflects a general disregard for the Jedi. We hear four

opinions on the Jedi in the movies: (1) from Owen Lars, who has personal reasons not to speak favorably about them to impressionable young minds; (2) Grand Moff Tarkin, who as the opposition has every reason to pigeon-hole them as something insignificant (just another ivory tower liberal...); (3) the Jedi, Yoda and Kenobi, who have every reason to talk up the idea; and (4) the Alliance, which acts as if the Jedi never disappeared.

My argument would be that the last is the truest measure. The Jedi, in the form of Luke, are not deified. (If Luke wants to fight, they let him go to it, all the better to have a Jedi involved.) Neither are they dismissed. (Luke is not nailed by the MPs for AWOL, no matter how many times he disappears.) Luke is simply accepted and left to go about his Jedi business.

That, I propose, is a very positive attitude toward the Jedi and reflects an every-day, "oh, it's just the Jedi; let them be about their business" kind of attitude.

Oh, can't forget #5, Han's opinion. Frankly, even if the Jedi were deified, I have to admit that I would expect a part of the population to call it all hogwash, especially those who could very well expect to end up on the wrong side of a light saber, and especially after 20 years. And, if you accept Han as a disbarred Imperial officer cadet, you've got someone who was specifically taught to adhere to opinions within Tarkin's range.

In fact, the "magician/sorcerer" tag by whoever doesn't bother me either since I would expect that most people, who have no awareness of Forceful powers in themselves, for whatever reason, would tend to think of them this way. Maybe my tolerance for this comes from growing up Catholic amidst many Protestants back in the days when jokes about transubstantiation were more common. Heck, even the Catholics would joke about it at times. Also, I've made my living as an artist, and some of the comments people make about such "talent/gifts" reflect much of the same scepticism and worship and dismissal as the Force.

I guess what I'm saying is that to the people involved with Jedi, their opinions would be practical, based on their interests; to everyone else, who only hear about the Jedi, they'd be magical, or "something spacers are involved with," or something just not very interesting/important.

It's not as dramatic to view the Jedi this way, but for me, it's a lot more realistic. I really don't think most of the population cared about any of it until all the "spacer troubles" started to affect local, planetary issues.

Z.P.: Now, now, we don't know that Kenobi didn't feel Vader or Leia on the DS. The information may simply have seemed irrelevant to him: "Oh, by the way, boys, the Lord of the Sith is on that station — just in case you aren't already totally terrified — and, you know, I'm not really comfortable with bringing the twins together just now but that's life and forget I said anything. Hey, let's all go hide

in the smuggling bins and hope for the best."

(Reminds me of my negotiating-to-Win/Win training which discusses the question of when honesty — something they support — is relevant (or appropriate) to the problem at hand. As in, it may be honest to tell someone that you feel his position is stupidly stubborn, but such honesty isn't really relevant to the problem of working everyone into a happy settlement. But I digress, again.)

As for Yoda, I have always wondered what the story is about him *vis á vis* the Emperor. I think someone could write a real juicy story of lost opportunities, misjudgments, or simply the frustration of knowing that — perhaps — Yoda *can't* do anything for some reason. (Could be a good springboard for a discussion of what Jedi can and cannot do.)

Can you imagine knowing that Something Is Going To Happen, spending 800 years working toward it and all the time knowing that it's going to be a Bad Scene because ... that's just the way Bad Scenes go. Knowing that all he can do is his best with what he's got and that what anyone "gets" in Bad Scenes is enough to drive a Mushroom to peaty tears?

Brian Harris: Good point about whether the nascent USA had the "right to survive." Somewhere along the line, we seem to have gotten the idea that winning a battle solves all problems and grants instant perfection in (and to) the resultant society. Maybe because we don't really teach history anymore? Or because so many (white) Americans around today are descendents of immigrants who came over in this century and don't have any emotional connection to the Civil War Between the States and its repercussions?

Yes, it's going to be messy for a long while in the galaxy; it was messy for a looong while after setting up America and we still had to fight that civil war over State vs. Federal rights (looks like we'll be fighting it again soon, too). Even in a country that didn't get trashed in WW2, that came home the Holy Vindicated Victor, it took a few years to get up to speed again. But then, do we teach kids about the housing shortages and labor problems after WW2 right here in the USofA? No, we teach them about Happily Ever After. And then we wonder why they get discouraged or feel they've been lied to.

Gad, all I'm doing is digressing...

Tina Benstrup: Hi and welcome back. As much as I'm a Great Fan of Alec Guinness, I wouldn't mind a new young actor playing the young OWK at all. The changes Kenobi must have gone through should make the job of following in Great Footsteps a little easier; and, if Lucas chooses an English actor, I suspect that the lucky — and highly challenged — man will strive mightily to live up to the role. Of course, I'm one who wants all new actors.

That nice young actor, Sean Pertwee (of recent Cadfael

mystery appearance), seems to me to be someone who might be able to carry it off...

Michelle Malkin: Thanks for all the background info on the events so lightly gone over in the JW overview. I was hoping people would write in with their memories of such things.

BTW, I hear from Joan Verba that she has written a history of fanzines, with emphasis on *Trek* since that's her area of interest, has had the ms. vetted by Debra Langsam and Paula Smith, and has sent it to Dell. Let's hope for the best! Joan was always one of the level-headed ones.

There is a new book out covering *Trek* and *Dr. Who* fandom, *Science Fiction Audiences: Watching Dr. Who and Star Trek*, by John Tullock and Henry Jenkins (Routledge, London & New York, 1995; ISBN 0-415-06141-5 (pbk). Various fandoms, including SW are discussed (and positively from my quick scan — I just bought the book last night), and in general it looks like an interesting trek through fandom.

Ack — trying to cover the *Scoundrel* run might tax my stress levels beyond recovery. I think I was too emotionally involved in that round of letters to be able to resist Heavy Editorializing. Please, anyone else want to tackle the subject? I've got a complete set to send out, so long as you promise to send them back when done. But, thanks for the joggle on *JW, Too*; I've got to e-mail Pat O'Neill and re-ask about the issue I'm missing the last half of.

Ah, I still read commentary that states that SW will never last because it isn't dense enough to be more than a temporary thrill. Sigh.

Mickey, I suspect there'd be a long wait for much talk from the fan-turned-pro. I still hear reports of very strong prejudice against fanwriting from the pro market. Some people advise that you never admit to writing fanlit if you want to write pro. Some just say that cutting your ties is sufficient. Seems a leftover from SFzine days when there was indeed a market for anyone's writing and therefore those who only published in fanzine were perceived as those who couldn't write good enough for pro. Of course, in media fandom there wasn't a legitimate market for years, but the old prejudice of "fanlit = bad writing" seems to persist. Some have made the break, but the reports I've gotten have been hard to hear. Sure, a few pros have shown up in zines (Diane Duane, for one), but I remember a lot of trepidation over those appearances, especially before people became established in their pro careers

Louise Turner (and everyone who think they're just rehashing old debates): Honest, your ideas will always add to the debate, not simply replicate it. If for no other reason than that it is 20 years after the movies first started to come out. No one will ever be able to replicate the way adults saw the films when first released — and it was those adults who got SW fanzinedom going — but if a story is to live

past its initial presentation, it has to speak to peoples over time and across situations.

Although I am definitely one who believes in taking the contemporary situation into account when analyzing a movie or book, I value the PoV of those who come at it differently than I do. My friends who were the children for which SW was written and produced have insights that are invaluable to judging the impact of the movie. Fans who came late to the films, when all they had to see were VCR screen versions of the movies, offer yet another way to access the myth. When, eventually, the "original fans" are all gone, witnessing SW through other media will be the accepted norm. This is a changing saga and I firmly believe in the need to document the changes, through articles or LoCs, whatever.

Spoken like a true CML, eh?

Better stop while I'm under 8 full pages. (Okay, I cheat and use .75-in margins...) Everyone have a fine harvest and plenty of time to nestle in before winter!

TAKING A HIKE

Louise Turner
89 St Andrews Drive
Bridge of Weir
Renfrewshire, Scotland
PA11 3JD

June, 1995

Hi. Something rather monumental happened to me a few weeks ago. I suddenly realised that I was watching the best science-fiction media presentation I'd ever actually been fortunate enough to see. It was, of all things, *Babylon 5*. Wow! It's like watching a CJ Cherryh novel on the small screen! So I'm afraid I think I'm taking a hike out of the official SW universe and heading off to become an avid consumer of B5 instead. I found it kind of bizarre. I was standing in a book shop, surrounded by SW books — none of which I'd read — metaphorically tearing my hair out because there were no B5 novels left in stock and they were temporarily out of print at the publishers. But, in case you're sitting there thinking, "Phew, that's got rid of *her* at long last!", then let me please assure you otherwise. I don't know, I can't get any satisfaction out of "proper" SW any more, and yet at the same time I just can't make the break from the universe itself! And, more specifically, I don't think I want to leave the fandom. So tough luck, darlings, looks like you're stuck with me a while longer.

I hope you all had a good time at MediaWest. One day, maybe, I'll win the National Lottery, and then I'll treat

myself to a trip to Lansing. Or maybe I'll manage to save enough money to pay for my plane fare.

Actually, I have a confession to make. I have started reading *Ambush at Corellia*, and am really enjoying it so far. There's people I've talked to who didn't think it was too brilliant, and yet I felt that it just seemed to get the atmosphere right. The only thing I couldn't cope with was the "Human League". I kept expecting Phil Oakey and Susan Tully to come skipping out singing "I was sitting in a bunker down in Coruscant, that much is true", and so on. If you're not well-versed in 1980's UK synth-pop bands then this joke will be lost on you, I'm afraid ...

Dead Bothan Debbie: You were very lucky to have your wolf experience. I lived through something like that this January, when a young humpback whale strayed into a local estuary for a few weeks. I ended up making a pilgrimage several times to see it, and was rewarded by having the animal surface only 15-20 feet away when I stood on a pier. That was breathtaking!

And I loved those wide-screen cards! I bought a box, and opened each packet in a state of feverish excitement. I was on one hell of an adrenalin-high! I suddenly realised just what those movies must mean to me!

Amanda Palumbo: Heh, heh. Just you wait until you get *Ormand II*! You thought the first part was enough to have Wedge hanging out the *Tantive* airlock? Well, Volume II's enough to make him jump out of his own accord, and I think Luke's going to be leaping out close behind him! I'll probably wind up getting a reputation as a Luke-basher! But all's well that end's well — eventually. Read it and see! I liked your idea of the deep-frozen Rieekan, too. I'm sure Pat Nussman could think of some way of thawing him out and restoring him to normality (and, Pat, I truly believe that the loss of Rieekan was one of the Alliance's saddest days in "my" universe. He was a nice bloke...).

Mary Jo Fox: I'm intrigued, really intrigued, because your description of "Star Wars: The Next Generation" applies to me, too. I spent years in virtual isolation, and wanted anything about SW! Consequently, I loved the first couple of publications from West End Games. What different circumstances transformed me into a stationary dinosaur who could not adapt to the "new" universe, I honestly don't know, because we all seem to have had exactly the same background. Maybe it's because I was writing feverishly during the hiatus period, and, because I'd been driven more into my own personal universe by the lack of official material, I'd already moved too far to accept the new stuff. It isn't that much fun feeling this way, though, because I feel kind of sad that I can't get the same things out of SW that I used to. (*Babylon 5*, oh *Babylon 5*. Wherefore art thou, *Babylon 5*?) This new Wedge emphasis that's coming out of Dark Horse, or whatever, is

a case in point. I spent *years* wishing so fervently that they'd produce something like that. I used to whizz through my Marvel comic every week, searching for just one tiny mention of Wedge. To no avail, mostly. Now, the whole world seems to be suffering "a colossal space-Wedgie" (hi, Amanda!), and I can't welcome it with any enthusiasm at all.

Carolyn Golledge: See these professional SW writers... They can't re-create the SW Universe for toffee... And that Golledge, well, she must be just as bad if she's been accepted for publication :-). No, seriously, Carolyn, well done! My most heartfelt congratulations!!! Even though we've talked about it together in the mail before now, let me just add my best wishes here. It's great to be able to share in your good fortune, and, well, I don't think it could have happened to a nicer person. I'll just keep my fingers crossed that your writing can go on from strength to strength.

Um, yes, I'm of Welsh descent — sometimes! Not at the moment, though. Since I'm of Welsh parentage but born in Scotland I can claim dual-nationality, and that rather depends on who does better in the rugby union! At the moment, I think I'm a Scot ...

Now to Susan Zahn (N.R.T.T.), Carolyn, and everyone else who addressed the problems of Imps/Rebels in a neutral setting... I'm afraid I'm going to maintain my difference, and swim against the tide of opinion here. I just don't see there being any kind of "neutral" situation here. Okay, I accept your points about the Germans and the British in the second World War, and all that, but I'd like to claim that there is one fundamental difference here which makes the situation quite different. Our heroes in the Rebellion are fighting a Civil War, and Civil Wars are very nasty. It's brother against brother, friend against friend, and all that. So there'll be a lot of Imperial conscripts who probably don't like what's going on? Yes, I can accept that, too, but if you can't trust your comrades to share your sentiments then showing any kind of tolerance of the opposing side is going to be difficult. I think the Rebels would be more reasonable in that kind of situation, but since the Empire is probably ruled by fear, then its soldiers could not afford to be so generous. That's just my opinion, and if you can quote me any examples of the Unionists and the Confederates sitting down in a bar after a battle and having a quick drink, then I'll certainly give it another thought. So if anyone's prepared to give me an abridged US history lesson, then I'd be delighted — you're the ones who at least have a Civil War in your recent history. But considering the scores of hideous civil wars in progress at the present, then I find any kind of neutrality hard to believe, because the potential loss of political and economic power seems to be something which can create resentment and enmity which lasts for

generations...

Belea Keeney: I thought I saw the female Imp in the guard of honor scene, where Vader and Palpatine stroll up the line of troops. Though it may have been the scene with Jejerrod at the beginning... Unfortunately, I was half-asleep at the time. I'd just travelled down on an overnight bus and I felt miserable — I even fell asleep during the middle of the *Empire Strikes Back*. Sacrilege! So I was probably hallucinating it. He/she/it was near the far end of the line of troops. And that's all I can tell you.

Tim Blaes and all those who commented on my Ideal Romantic Hero: Well, I think that type of hero is rather sexy, but, hey, I'm a sensible kid really. I wouldn't give them houserom! My ideal man would probably be completely different. He'd have a sense of humor, for one thing... Like Garibaldi, without the loo-brush hairstyle, thank you!

Maggie Nowakowska: Fascinating illumination about the American concept of the Romantic Hero. Perhaps "Romantic" as a term should apply more to the "Romantic" period, for that's when such heroes were probably developed with Rochester and Heathcliffe. Using the idea of the Tragic or Flawed Hero as Romantic Hero may just be a natural continuation of this tradition. I personally feel that sanitized heroes are too boring for words... As are sanitized fairy tales. Actually, I have to confess that I grew up as a boring ole Disney kid. It took me a while to stop seeing the world in rose-tinted wonder. I found the "real thing" as written by Hans Christian Anderson, etc., fascinating, but a little too discomfoting. Now I just can't tolerate anything which is presented in an over-simplified, over-didactic manner. I like to see my world in shades of grey.

Pat Nussman: Um, yes, I am (or was) an Avon fan. Your sins will find you out, I suppose. While I grew up liking Disney (!), I also grew up liking *Blake's 7*. And the Man in Black was my heart-throb. Oh, that classic line, "Inside that cold exterior, there beats a heart of pure stone". I'm glad I haven't read any fiction which attempts to sanitize poor old Avon. That would be severe character-assassination.

Minky: I'll leave you to the blonds, dear. Just give me confused, lost, sensitive dark-haired X-wing pilots... But can Rutger Hauer ever be described as "confused, lost and sensitive"? He's too big and macho for that kind of role, surely! But he sure makes a real nice wolf. Welcome to SE, by the way. Join the party! The more the merrier, I say.

A. G. Steyn and Pat Grant: Of dogs and ducks, and all that jazz... I have no problems with the dogs and the ducks. I mean, if human beings have managed to evolve in a virtually identical form, then why shouldn't dogs and ducks have evolved, too? And, if dogs and ducks have evolved,

why shouldn't they have been carried around the Galaxy along with the first "pioneers", much as domestic animals were in our own history? And, if there are dogs and ducks, why shouldn't there be cows, and squirrels, and aardvarks? Anyway, we all *know* that there are chickens and horses and ferrets in the SW universe — since they appeared in "Caravan of Courage" then it's concrete evidence!

Maggie, again: Great finish to the JW thing. I'm relieved to have missed out on all that — how on earth could people be so reactionary and dictatorial? Ah, that's humanity, I suppose. As for cut-and-paste fanzines, well, I think I'm of the opinion that once you've started doing your DTP'ing on a PC, then returning to the Bad Old Days becomes unthinkable. My first zine was set up on an Amstrad, and now I find it embarrassing! And you haven't seen my cut-and-paste jobs! Talk about "Drunk in Charge of a Letraset..." ((Ed: Oh, geez, Louise... My first zines were done on an old Royal electric with a broken space bar that my mom bought for \$10 in a garage sale! And I still have piles of Letraset and Formaline tape cluttering up my desk drawers! If I never have to rub down lettering again, it'll be too soon!))

I find the concept of Wedge as Jedi most intriguing. It's something which a number of writers seem to postulate (Wedge in the *Catalyst* series, and the *Sanctuary* series) and it's something which I find quite alien to the concept of Wedge as he appears in the canon material, because he really does seem too potentially aggressive. A case of potential Sith-Lord, if you ask me. I see him as being quite receptive to the Force, but when he's shooting TIE's down it's the Dark Side that's talking! It'll be great to see your new Mon Mothma stories — certainly I enjoy the political undercurrents that your works carry with them. They are eagerly awaited on this side of the Atlantic!

Matthew Whitney: I conveyed your desolate summons from the last issue to Catriona. I was going to reply that I feared she might never return, but I'm "workin' on it", okay?

Gerald Crotty: What are you saying about my accent??! At least I don't come from Burrming-GHUM!! (Ha, beat that one!).

Susan Zahn (N.R.T.T.): Um, I can't write that Bail Organa story. Catriona has an even better idea, which she will, I hope, be working on eventually. So, alas, I'll be leaving it a few years, before I tackle such a subject.

Michelle Malkin: WHAT?? They're going to rope off Avebury? You just ruined my day! One of my tutors ranted on and on about what they'd done to Stonehenge by stopping access to it, and I think he was right, too. You see it from the distance, and it just looks like a heap of stones. Getting right next to monuments like Avebury and West Kennet gives you a sense of scale, at least. You really have to experience those sites at close quarters to appreciate

them fully. This year, a bunch of New Age travellers stormed Stonehenge and had a picnic inside it. They didn't exactly knock the monument over, so I don't know why people made such a fuss about it. It's not as if it hasn't been excavated about half-a-dozen times, or whatever. Maybe if the powers-that-be find it that great a problem, then some day they'll create a virtual Stonehenge for people to view. That's another gimmick for the tacky tourist center, isn't it?

Well, I think I'd better shut up and shut down now, or I'll wind up writing yet another monumental letter. ("NO!!!" I hear you cry! "Not that! Anything but that!!") Last minute "hellos" to Ming and Gail and Barbara Anderson (thank you for the info on the Wedge comic!)

SINCERE THANKS

Carolyn Golledge
6 Burrawang Street
Ettalong 2257
NSW Australia

June 13, 1995

Wanted to get in at least a short LoC for SE, though I know I'm going to miss the deadline. Please pass on my sincere thanks to all those who voted for me in the Fan Fund. I had the absolutely best time of my life! Liz Sharpe and I were able to stop by and visit the crew at West End Games who treated us like royalty. Peter Scweighofer is a *big* SW fan as are they all and they were very happy to have recently been given permission by Lucasfilm to allow one of their writers to use Luke as a main character in her story. (There's even an illo of him kissing the girl!) So I can highly recommend the latest issue of *The SW Adventure Journal*.

I'm also more than pleased to say my first *Journal* story titled "Firepower" will be printed in the November issue (number 8). I'm hoping to have the sequel completed soon!

Will conclude by saying "thanks, guys" to all those who participated in the MWC Blaster Battle. For the first time in my life, I was able to run (well sort of shuffle) through the hallways in search of Imperial scum! I made a lot of credits as a mercenary allied to the Alliance — the only one, in fact! The Imperial mercs asked me why I was working for the Rebels and I replied that they had the cutest leaders! So you see there is more to us mercenaries than money — there's hormones, too! Anyway, I had a blast (groan). Apologies again to the Imperial Admiral I "wounded" when he tried to escape. I hope the scar has

healed by now! These things happen when you run around with a Major Calamity!

Highlight of the Con for me was seeing Marti Schuller win a Star Award. And also the *long* overdue Fan Q won by our esteemed editor for her wonderfully enjoyable story "Mercy Mission". It was a treat too to see fellow Dead Bothan Jennifer Moore's astonished reaction when she won for best poem. Then there was Wanda's win for "Mirrors"...

Oh, I haven't even mentioned the *fantastic* SW dance on Friday night. Or Debbie Kittle and Z. P. Florian's great wedding day doll exhibit. (That baby Ewok looked very, ummm, satisfied!) Then there was the gathering in the Cantina after the Blaster Battle on Sunday night. That was one fun "poker game" ... thanks to everyone being in character ... including Cypher's incredibly entertaining creation, The Corellian Nerd! Watch for this character in upcoming stories! I for one can't wait to read them. Aside from all these highlights of the con, there were some great new SW zines to enjoy ... thanks to Judy Yuenger and Marti Schuller (*I Don't Care What You Smell!*), and Z. P.'s *The Rest of the Garbage*. Great artwork! Another solid read provided by Ming's *Bright Center*. Well done, all! and to everyone who couldn't make it to MediaWest*Con this year ... plan on it next year! I guarantee you'll be transported to a galaxy far, far away!

TIMEBLINK

Liz Sharpe
10046 Marguerita Avenue
Glenn Dale, MD 20769

June 23, 1995

FOEs, Rebels, everyfen. I come to bury Bothans, not to raise them... Fellow life force-disadvantaged ones, I know we have 101 uses. But let's keep the in-jokes in SE down to an occasional whisper. Like proliferating on-line acronyms, such asides can be distracting to those lacking a score card...

Important things first: If I'd managed to get a submission in to SE in the last (two?) issues, I would have said this long ago (and I rejoice that others have been more punctual than yours truly): three cheers to Maggie Nowakowska for her painstakingly researched and documented history of emerging SW fandom, as seen through the early letterzines. I have enjoyed this opus immensely, and I admire the scholarly integrity Maggie has invested in the project, not to mention her candor in marking places where her own personal involvement in events might, perhaps, color her observations. Myself, I've

found Maggie's reporting to be extremely accurate, according to my own recollections of those turbulent and fascinating times. Terrific job, Maggie; very well done. I hope there will be more to look forward to. Soon!

MediaWestCon festivities were even more elaborately fascinating this year than usual. This partly has to do with the fact that our very own superbly ineffable Carolyn Golledge came to stay with me for a few days before the con. I highly recommend this Golledge person as a houseguest. Not only is she an accomplished (now pro!) writer, an amiable traveling companion, and an engaging conversationalist; she also cleans floors, weeds gardens, and is a gifted pet-sitter. Carolyn, it would be such a terrible waste if you were merely a normal human being!

Carolyn and I took a roundabout route to Michigan, stopping first at West End Games (which turned out to be located in a most unassuming little warehouse in a remote northeastern corner of Pennsylvania). This was partly so that Carolyn could deliver her revised story to her editor in person. Of course, it also provided Carolyn and her American chauffeur (that's me!) with a first-class opportunity to schmooze shamelessly around the premises... Peter Schweighofer (boss editor) gave us a very warm welcome and showed us around personally. During our tour, we got to poke our heads into all the departments and meet everyone from editors to sales to the hard-working folks in the art department. The people who produce the *Star Wars Role Playing Journal* (and associated publications) are very friendly and generous, and the whole place had a happily "fannish" atmosphere. I don't think we boggled loudly enough to actually deafen anyone; but we had cause. The resources West End Games has to draw on are enough to make any collector truly envious. They have whole bins of still photos (for example) from all the Lucasfilm projects casually stored in boxes on bookshelves, right out in the open where any sticky-fingered, drooling visitor could so very very easily glom right on... But (despite the temptations on every side) we behaved ourselves (at least, this time) all the way through to genial farewell handshakes in the parking lot. (The rest of our voyage to Michigan is a blur in my memory; the buzz was potent and long-lasting.)

MediaWest whisked past in the usual blur of cheerful excitement. This year I scoped out the FOE Cantina properly. It is *definitely* the place to be for truly stellar/interstellar ambience; check in any time of day and wait a little — something interesting *will* occur. The Friday night cantina dance/costume party was a high point of the con (for me), and a heckuva fine way to get into the SW/convention spirit. Dancing to "Tequila!" will never be quite the same again, after taking an unstable if energetic place in a weaving cha-cha line which included Imperials, Rebels, mercenaries, Jedi, miscellaneous fellow-travelers,

a number of exotic non-humans, and even a blissfully enthusiastic mundane or two... I pass along this warning for what it's worth: do *not* have more than one of the beverages with the gummi-things in the bottom in quick succession, unless you are truly prepared to howl. Ahem. (This was confided to me at a dark corner table, between sets, by a former Bug who shall remain otherwise anonymous...)

Alas, I missed Rebel breakfast this year. Oops. Well, all I have to say in my defense is that I mis-spent my time productively: I was noshing down with Ye Noble Editor of this-here Esteemed Letterzine. Even dead people can have their diplomatic moments. Sometimes. ((Ed: *And an enjoyable nosh it was, too, although I don't normally eat with Dead people. Oh, I understand I'm honorarily Dead, too, so I suppose it doesn't matter. Anyway, things were lively enough and got even livelier when Sucky Zine Editor Annie Wortham and her Loyal Sidekick and Faithful Companion Leah Rosenthal joined us for breakfast!*))

The 2-hour SW artists/writers panel was well worth attending. (Thank you to whichever thoughtful person it was who snapped me out of a timeblink and aimed me in the right direction at the proper hour.) Personally, I greatly enjoyed the initial round of introductions, even if we did have to move all those chairs around so we could form a ring. I'm glad that I'll now be able to match a face with many a name of long-standing familiarity. Also, I note that people from all eras, old and new, of SW fandom attended and actively participated. Overall, the comments made were unusually constructive for *any* convention panel, and the validity of the observations made was in no way limited to SW topics. Tim Blaes' reading of the hallucinatory scene from his story hit me square on the black-humor funnybone; I apologize to anyone who may have been offended by my giggling. ("Bye!" and "See ya!" will never be the same to me again...) Breaking the big group up into smaller circles toward the end was also very productive. I sampled the discussions in several groups, and I wanted to stay with *all* of them. I hope this panel/discussion will be held again next year.

Shucks and other imprecations: I missed the SE party on Saturday night, even though it was in the room where I was (occasionally) sleeping, and even though I'd gone forth hunting and gathering with my own hands in order to obtain munchies for this event. (Sorry I forgot the cups, Cheree...) Eek. Um. Er. Most embarrassing. It's not that I *forgot* y/see. Have y'all ever noticed the "timeblink" phenomenon at cons, particularly, at MediaWest? Where you sit down to chat for five minutes, and get up, and somehow it's three... *hours* later? GAAAAAAHHHHH...! I had timeblink worse than ever this year. I swear, it could not *possibly* have been a minute later than 10:00pm when I tore myself away from that after-dinner conversation...

I schlepped up to the door expecting a roomful of nattering Enclavers ... and there was nothing inside but uninhabited furniture (Cheree had gone party-hopping) and this malicious liar of a clock insisting over and over that it was 12:30 and counting... Go figure! A bad case of timeblink can cause you serious social awkwardness, let me tell you. Of course, for me, the problem has been compounded by this strange difficulty I've been having (since I came to this universe) with successfully being in two places at once...

This monolocality disorder was particularly annoying on Sunday night, when it would have been *so* much nicer if I had been able to hang out in the artists' ghetto in the back of the Art Auction, and still not miss a single minute of action in the Cantina. (Bitchmoangripe.) Can you say, conflict of interests? (Well, *don't*.)

Sunday night was the culmination of the role play/blaster battle. Between divided loyalties (which kept me shuttling back and forth between far ends of the convention facilities), and the general mental deterioration that usually sets in by the last full night of the con, I probably missed quite a bit. But I had a great time, confusion notwithstanding... At the Cantina, what I mostly remember is getting sucked into a heated round of chaos poker at a dark corner table. There was this Corellian Nerd sitting across from me, babbling and peering into the gloom through garish tape-bound spectacles. The alien to my right kept nervously eating credit chips, jabbing me in the ribs and making unintelligible wheepling noises. On my left, Major Calamity (self-described erratic but thorough demolitions specialist) was frankly staring over my shoulder; eventually she started just plain reaching across and grabbing favorable cards out of my hands. (She would've won a bundle, if anybody had been paying attention to the bidding by that time...) Whenever the formidable Peggy Sue (in all her hot-pink accessorized splendor) wafted past, more chips would mysteriously "disappear" from somebody's pile. This caused ... debate. And some rather intense whispering conferences. The rules (questionable at best) finally became so confused that the game degenerated completely. The high rollers got fed up and left; so the rest of us gathered up such surviving chips as the alien had not found edible, and used them to write rude words in Bocci on the table. (There were also pictures — but you nice people wouldn't want to know about *them*.) Glancing around at the crowd (the place was packed), you never knew which fascinating captive would be dragged across the room next, or what incomprehensible but tantalizing announcement concerning the status of the battle (overall) would echo through the ever-thickening atmosphere.

Was fun!

General convention comments. There were many excellent *hall door decorations* showing hard work and

creative wit this year, though I'm afraid nothing quite matched the impact that the Holodeck Entrance section had on me in 1994. (Impossible act to follow, I should toss it as a standard of comparison.) I didn't attend the formal masquerade competition, but *hall costumes* in general (apart from role play/blaster battle participants) seem to be in decline. *SIGH* (Maybe I just happened to miss a bunch of good ones? I spent less time than usual sitting in the lobby well, so my cross-sample is probably less representative than in some years.) The *dealers' room* seemed to offer less diversity of goods than sometimes in years past. I don't recall seeing the same quantity of costume jewelry offered, or elegant stuffie dragons, or clever sculpie critters, or general craft items, as in prior years. I'm *not* complaining, just observing. The emphasis seems to be returning to zines, and that has always been my primary purpose in visiting the dealers' room anyway, so I be happy camper. There were still a few tables decked with pretty sparklies — and it was possible to find neat non-zine goodies from private room dealers, as long as one's feet (and time) held out.

The *Art Show*: okay, so, where's the SW art? Other than that minor quibble, I have to say there was a heckuva lotta good stuff. I encourage everyone to celebrate the return of Karen River to the MWC art show. Karen's work is as strong as ever, and in addition to more common graphics media, she has added engraved stone (marble and granite) to her repertoire. (I asked — she is doing commission work on headstones nowadays as a side line to her regular job.) Would we could all be so creative. Not to mention, ah, strong.

The *SW doll display* was once again innovative and impressive. (And, er, just slightly off-color amusing! Perhaps one of the fabricators could offer us an explanation of just *exactly* what Han was doing with that teddybear — or was it an Ewok? — in the wedding suite?) Maybe if fandom in general learns to view this as miniature set building and costuming (both original and reproductions) the "doll" displays will be more widely appreciated. They deserve it. I'm not a builder myself, but having been present at one or two brainstorming sessions, my respect for the crafting skills, imagination, creativity and just plain hard work involved in this project every year has gone up immeasurably.

Mundane comments: the food service in restaurant seemed sloooooow this year. This was somewhat alleviated by the constant availability of self-service buffets, but on at least one occasion all I wanted to ingest (or pay for) was a cup of coffee and some soup, and it took an absurd 50 minutes to arrive. Room service (on the other hand) was remarkably fast, sometimes arriving in less than 15 minutes even in the middle of the afternoon. The hotel staff in general (even the pizza delivery person!) seemed to have

general (even the pizza delivery person!) seemed to have a very positive attitude. More than one hotel-person commented to me on the remarkable friendliness of fen (weirdness notwithstanding, though also accredited). When I first tried to check in, the registration desk clerk said that the computer said that my roommates' reservation had been cancelled (while staring at the screen in puzzlement, since the allegedly cancelled folk were clearly occupying the room at that very moment). Just a typical check-in glitch, but again I must compliment the clerk on his immediate willingness to sort things out without resort to calibrated ordnance, or other, less technological methods of persuasion.

So much for my "con report." Next issue, back to the usual calendar of observances...

In parting, here's a totally unsolicited convention "plug." I hope lots-an-lotsa people will come to Electicon this fall (October 27-29, 1995). The more who come, the better the con will be!

Just a quick general comment on the past couple of issues of SE: I really like the diversity I'm seeing, not just in the contents of the letters (which is delightful of itself) but also in the different kinds of subject covered: the afore-praised ongoing SW letterzine history, the FOE/role-playing origin explications, the report on Electicon, the SW awards and more.

I'd say this fandom is doing mighty well!

One last parting shot.

Z. P.: Hey, brevity is a cardinal ... virtue. But seriously, many thanks for your good grace at my "short" quips. You're completely right. Of course!

On that note, I'd better cut and run. This is (technically) late already, though I'm hoping Cheree will manage to sneak me in somehow...

Read and enjoy!

GAMUT OF EMOTIONS

M. J. Mink
8805 SW Cashmur Lane #1
Portland, OR 97225

Hi to everybody I met at MWC! And hi to everybody who didn't go — wish you could have — it was wonderful! Lots of beautiful new zines debuting. Thanks to a verrry friendly group (both Dead Bothans and assorted live species — you know who you are) for going out of their way to make me feel welcome. Great visiting, delightful doll exhibit, and crazed zine shopping — what more could a fan ask for? See you next year.

Belea: The high quality fanfic spoiled me, too. I think that's true in all fandoms; the pro novels, maybe because of

the restrictions placed on them, just don't deliver the emotional satisfaction that fanfic does. Fanfic is open to anything and everything; pros don't have the latitude fans do — darn it. Though Hambley took it as far as a pro can go — Luke certainly ran the gamut of emotions (and trashing) in COTJ. Finding pro novels unsatisfying was what sent me looking for zines, and nothing will ever replace fanfic in my heart.

A. G.: Speaking of names cropping up ... a JC Penney catalog from last year had a lovely ladies' shoe named Darth (pink nubuck, as I recall).

Z. P.: Congratulations on unveiling a great zine! *Garbage* is delightful, and it's so refreshing to see adult situations in stories. As for Yoda and Ben calling Luke their only hope, I like to think that's because he was the only hope to recall Darth's "better half", and that Darth was the only Jedi strong enough to destroy Palpatine — Luke obviously wasn't up to it. Love your idea of Luke as a warrior/prophet. And I finally got 8 megs so I can play Gabriel Knight — it's terrific! Voices are great.

Judy and Marti: *Smelly* is a wow. I bow at your altar and can't believe it's your first zine! Great stories and illos — oops, this isn't supposed to be an LOC, is it? — anyway, I laughed myself silly.

Maggie: A violent lifetime on Tatooine to explain Luke's non-violent reaction to the Owen & Beru BBQ? Given that the Tatooine lifestyle we saw seems to be of the frontier type, maybe Luke has seen crispy critters before. The sand people, etc., may have burned their dead (as well as their victims) rather than attempt to bury them in sand. Interesting idea.

Take care of yourselves, everybody!

SURROUNDED BY GREAT COMPANY

Nancy Stasulis
P. O. Box 5219
Laytonsville, MD 20882

June 9, 1995

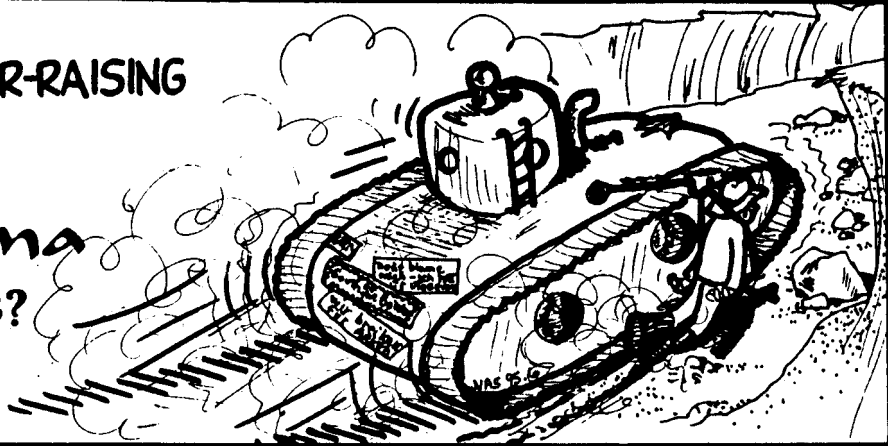
I want to say how really nice it was to finally *meet* several people (including present Ed) I have been reading/hearing about/illustrating for/writing to/have always known the name but never seen the face, etc., for so many years, at this last MWC. I was beginning to think some of you were mythical — either that, or all alternate pen names for Cheree. I was also astonished that many of you live within "meet you at the Pizza Hut in 15 minutes", etc. distance. Geez! I'm surrounded by Great Company and never knew it. I shall have to have all MD-DC-No. Va.-ers over for tacos or something else cheap and filling and bad for the



Q: WHAT IS MORE
APPALLING
THAN
Freddy Krüger?

MORE HAIR-RAISING
THAN

*Indiana
Jones?*



MORE TERRIFYING
THAN
JURASSIC
PARK?!?

A: Reading
'On This Day In
History' in *Southern
Enclave* !!!!!



cholesterol in the near future. Gosh! I really am boggled!

I enjoyed all the letters and opinions (altho of necessity quite a few remarks went over my head since they referred to prior communications), but I especially enjoyed Maggie's article — it plunged my mind back to the Good/Bad Old Days. I infer from the comments of the savage readers that they were at least two earlier segments in Issues 39 and 40? I also noticed in the fine print on page 3 that those copies were sold out. I would love to read the first two installments ... anyone living nearby that could let me borrow them (you can hold all 4 of my cats as ransom for return in good condition ...?); failing that — Hey! You! Cheree or Maggie! Any way I can ~~blackmail~~ persuade you to send me a copy of just that article? I will promise not to (or to — your preference) caricature or cartoon you in any fan-related media? ((*Ed: Sure, if one of the Dead Bothans doesn't loan you a copy, let me know and I'll dig out my personal copy of those issues and make a xerox for you.*))

Being serious, Maggie, I remember clearly but small and far away the very things I read in your article, and it moved me a great deal; I want *very* much to read the whole and see how your perceptions concurred/differed from mine and what you noticed that went over my head at the time (I tend to be perpetually Clueless).

I also am amused at myself that one of the major sources of wonder and atonishment to me at MWC *was* that all over the place I saw Impies and Rebels, Church of Fordies and Lukasites, Leia-lovers and Vader-vamps, sitting together, talking, and even during or after the Great Blaster Battle smiling and joking with each other and not just their "own", as it were. And it wasn't just the new Fen either: I saw several old "enemies" sitting in quiet conversation — together! — over a meal or two at the Hummingbird. Almost more than seeing my own old buddies, seeing these "old" antagonists being friendly and intermingling like the adults they finally are moved me greatly for reasons I have no words to explain, except that it always hurt me to be held at arms' length by several people I wanted very much to get to know better, solely because I was notoriously — and erroneously — relegated to the Imperial/Vader camp, when in fact my friends and I were very fond of *all* the characters — except the Ewoks, I admit.

We always wondered whether those involved in the all-too-real hostilities were aware that this *was*, after all, fiction. Carol Hines-Stroede once remarked that she was always on the brink of telling these parties to get a life. SW was and still is one of the centers of my real (as opposed to Mundane) life, but I am not about to denigrate anyone over their preferences, since there are better things to fight for (and about). Actually, I wonder how much of it started out as pretend teasing, and turned ugly when it got out of hand...? It does happen: people become

oversensitive to teasing — especially when it's somewhat rough or repetitive — and the surly or defiant pretened response becomes more and more real? Whatever went before, I'm glad it seems to be over this time around, but not surprised: 18 years of life *can* tend to mature some of us into sadder but wiser — and more tolerant — individuals. Pity it doesn't work that way for everyone. Anyway, to return to my original thought: someone please have mercy and send Parts 1 and 2 of the article somehow. Filthy lucre is only a partial object for such excellent analytical memoirs. If the segment in Issue #41 is on par with the rest — which from long acquaintance with Maggie's writings I am certain it is — then I wish Maggie would enlarge on the subject and perhaps put it out as a booklet or commentary: *The History of Fandom, by Someone Who Was There and Lived to Tell About It*.

One more comment and then I shall yield the field to those that are better informed as well as better writers. My thanks to all the members of the Dead Bothan Society at MWC; they have inspired me with at least half-a-dozen ideas for tasteless but amusing (to the easily amused) cartoons, etc. Please give my regards to Manny Bothans.

I look forward to the pleasure of reading you all again and hopefully seeing you next year in Lansing. 'Til then, ciao, and HnukH paH! (Supposedly Klingon for "Take care 'til we meet again" which translated literally means "Don't let yourself get killed by anything but the best", except that I have it from one who is an inveterate joker that it more accurately means something like "The beer's on me!")

A FLAW IN THE SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM

Jennifer Moore
1204 S. Washington St.
Apt. 301W
Alexandria, VA 22314

June 8, 1995

What's doin' everyone? Is everybody having an excellent summer? Why is it MWC flies by, but the rest of the year crawls by?? Definitely a flaw in the space-time continuum.

Wasn't MWC a blast! Glad nearly everyone could make it! To those who couldn't: If you can, definitely make it your pilgrimage to Mecca. It's worth it! Hope to see you there! Now on with the show!

To Everyone who voted for my poem for the Star Awards: THANK YOU! Even now I'm still stunned, but humbled by the fact you took the time to vote. It was much appreciated! Thank you again. You folks made my

year!

Maggie: Sounds like you and I have the same approach to the pro novels. I call them "subway" reading — something light to read and enjoy while traveling to the city but nothing to take overly seriously. Would I consider them canon? No. Sources for story ideas? Maybe. But then the new wave of fans may disagree with me. I definitely agree that SW fandom is changing. You hit it right on the money: There will be less of a common ground. Let's just hope it doesn't degenerate like Trek did — into "Classic" vs. "Next Gen". Fortunately, that didn't last. Meanwhile, I hope to see you at MWC next year.

Michelle: Hey, I have to admit, I would pay to read "Looky, Looky, a Darkside Wookiee!" I got a kick out of the title. Have to admire yours and Mary Jean Holmes' nerve for taking on Ewoks as a subject to write about.

Marti: Ditto re your comments about Anderson's books. By the third book, he's mired in mediocrity. The third volume was disappointing.

It was great hanging out with you and Judy. You guys did a great job with the zine. Definitely an auspicious debut! Can't wait for #2.

Judy: I enjoyed the SW writing and artists workshop. After talking with Rebecca Carey and Wanda Lybarger, I felt encouraged about my photography, and that I wasn't totally off the mark on putting together a portfolio.

Great job with the zine! One of the best of the year! Have you started #2 yet?

Debbie: Isn't this weather wonderful? I'll gladly keep it on this side of the Potomac. Hey, can I borrow some \$ for the Hambly book? Talk to ya soon.

Amanda and Kymm and Cheryl and Minky: It was great meeting you gals! Hope to see you at Port Lansing next year!

Carolyn and Liz: Glad you liked my "bucket of Hans"! Oh, boy, you two really put some photographic ideas in my head! You, too, Z. P.!

Tim: Liked your definition of *ecchi*. Definitely appropo in some fandom cases.

As for fanfic and pro writing — I guess most of us involved in it fall somewhere between JAM's and CML's ("Just a movie" v. "Changed my life").

Aren't there two versions of the Energizer ad? I thought I saw two different ones.

Pat: Ditto your comments on DS9 and *Voyager*. Janeway can pass for a young Katharine Hepburn. Her voice is OK once you get used to it.

Great meeting you at MWC — how long did it take you to collate all those zines?

That's about all so I'll wind down. Thanks again everyone and fellow Dead Bothans for making MWC the place to be! It's amazing what so much talent can accomplish! Zines to the Doll Exhibit to the Star Awards

to everything else was incredible!

I hope this letter doesn't sound too disjointed. Shortly after the rest of my vacation (in Bennington, Vermont at a B&B with zines — heavenly!), I came down with the stomach flu which I'm just bouncing back from. Talk about being a speedbump for reality!

So take care, talk to you all soon and, Clear Skies!

OUR OWN LANGUAGE

Ming Wathne
437 Via Roma
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

July 15, 1995

Well, tail end Tony again — seems like the time gets less and the work gets more as the years go on, but glad to see another issue of SE. MediaWest was fun — SW very well represented, group gets larger every year, more diverse, and it was nice to see everyone again even if we all didn't get the chance to talk.

Marti Schuller: Yep, fans would be as likely to condemn in Fan Fic. Problem with the pros is they are getting paid for their work — so they should be better. Fan Fic is often made up of people who are learning. Pros are supposed to know what they are doing. After great expectations, the Pro books have been a major disappointment, and in some cases even painful to read. I had expected something like the first Han books only advancing in age for our characters.

Belea Keeney: Ah, you have found the difficulty with the pro stuff. Fans over the years have built up their own mythos we have developed SW with our ideas. We have even developed our own language. Shimmersilk, Shiver trees, Ganks, Little One — these are all fan ideas. After reading (trying to read) the pro material I sometimes wonder if these authors ever saw the movies. Their development of the characters did not seem to reflect the characters we know and love.

Tim Blaes: Sorry, Tim, but despite our social ideas, nature made the choice of who would carry the child. As a retired X-Ray tech, I can assure you that the difference in the physical structure is more than just gonads. Male and female are different from the skeletal level up and probably down as well. As for the Energizer Bunny commercials, I wish I had them. I don't watch most of the big power stations, and by the time I know about them they were gone. I thought they were funny in the crazy way the bunny is. They at least made more sense than *Hardware Wars*.

Matthew Whitney: Glad you decided to stay in the fold

— it is growing by the day. As for Lucas setting the dates on the time lines, well, it never seemed to bother him in the movies, so why in the new one?

Sue Zahn: Hey, a multi-lingual among us. And, yes, the Library does have the entire set of *Jundland* but only a part of it has been copied for circulation. We must have at least 4 requests for any issue before it can be copied to circulate. Economics demand this. As for the coming films, if and when... Sorry, I cannot get too excited about them. Look what Lucas OK'd for the books and the comics. Take a lot of Generic stuff, change a few names, make sure it is politically correct, tack on the name *Star Wars*. As for reviving the Republic, well, starting over can mean trying to pick the good from the bad when you rebuild after a fire. Politics as a whole are unhealthy over any given amount of time. Politicians eventually tend to talk to each other rather than the people they represent.

Jacqueline Taero: Yeah for critic on the Pro stuff and the fan material. As stated above, the Pro get paid — the fans do it for love. Either way it is my right to praise, or condemn, and as for purchased titles, I imagine it was done all the time. Not necessary in monetary units. As for the aging bit — well the twins are not identical. The aging difference might be laid to the difference in genetics between male and female?

M. J. Mink: You do not need to be a neophyte to get upset over the shortcuts. And, lady, you have a naughty mind and I love it. As for the Jedi being peace keepers, you run into the problem of how? An analogy might be made with our own police forces. Expected to do the impossible of protecting, while being criticized if they even sneeze wrong. If the Jedi were in that position, it was no wonder they were wiped out. They just literally could not protect themselves.

A. G. Steyn: I am with you on at least keeping some of the oldies if not the mains in the coming (perhaps) films, and, hey, lady, you will find that practically everything has been done before in some way or another. Ideas of changes have been with us from the start of time. The problem has been the back up tech to make them work. You need electricity to make a computer work and steam to originally drive a mechanical engine. And, OK, I would settle for a 3x5 or even one of those pics you need for a passport. With a memory like mine you need to renew more than once a year. Remember as a panelist I could not even remember the name of my own zine.

Brian Harris: Rebels & Imperials hanging out together. Well, it might happen on a one to one thing. As a grouping no way. As for Heros — well, it depends who is evaluating. If you liked the guy (Person), you gloss over the imperfections. If you dislike, you say they were a smidge who at least once in their life did something right. Han Solo was or is a realist. Shooting Greedo under the

table was a real solution given the situation. He knew who he was dealing with. He knew even if he gave Greedo the money, he would more then likely get shot in the back as soon as he got up to leave.

Maggie Nowakowska: As usual I get a charge out of your definitions of hero-anti hero, and poor sweet Lukey — come on now, the kid grew up on a planet where packing a gun to take a little side trip was not unusual, and where the homestead was threatened all the time by roving Indians, er, Tusks. That he would not come completely unzipped at the death of his aunt and uncle, it is unlikely he would not be furious and bent on revenge. It was probably Ben who steered him away from that path.

Pat Grant: Like your explanation on how Luke & Leia could be different ages depending on the year of the Planets and not a Galactic year. That is something like our crossing the date line. On one side you are 19. You cross the line and you are 20 because you have gained a day on your birthday. Nice...

Cheryl Pryor: Stuck with the *Dark Empire* as canon. May the gods preserve us. Thank heavens for the Fan Fic that does not as a whole like the books and is not writing that J-(be nice Ming) stuff.

Michelle Malkin: Four cats, enough already. You have a way to go to catch up with my catting heyday. Seven. A female stray that immediately got pregnant, upsetting our old house pet no end. He had little love for the kittens, and then, of course, my son brought home a cat that is now eight. All gone now years ago. I love the critters, but allergic reaction will not let me have another, so I have cat pins, glass cats and statues instead.

Well, enough. Nice to see all the new faces, regular faces, and old faces (Hey not literal) again. With peace in the Force...

PLOT HOLES

Gerald Crotty
25 Woodridge
Birchfield, Birmingham 6
B6 6LN England

June 6, 1995

Hello, everyone.

Ambush at Corellia: Well, it was okay, readable but the story took a long time to get going. The problem with a leisurely plot is that the reader has a lot of time to notice plot holes. For instance, Han does nothing to check out Kalendra or her story. The subplot involving Lando could be quite funny but it isn't. And Luke has nothing to do but follow Lando around.

I recently bought *From Star Wars to Indiana Jones*, a beautiful book. It's basically a catalogue of the models and props from the SW and Indy trilogies. The photos are large, sharp and mostly unseen before. I believe this is an English language version of a Japanese book which was done to complement the *George Lucas Super Live Show* or whatever the hell it was called. It's by far the best book of its kind since *The Art of...* books.

I also bought *The Radio Play Book*. In it I noticed that Leia's father is called Prestor rather than Bail. Does anyone know why this is?

If you haven't seen *Clerks* yet then go see it. It's very funny and there's a great conversation about all the innocent construction workers who died on the second Death Star.

The SW Widevision Cards are very nice. Good quality photo reproduction. My only criticism is that they could've used the space on the backs a bit more wisely.

Marti Schuller: I've seen the Vader-Energizer Bunny commercial and, while I thought it was funny and very well made, I really think these sort of ads should remain uncommon. Otherwise there's a danger of trivializing the SW myth. How long before we see Chewie advertising breath mints or Leia selling tampons or Solo condoms? I haven't seen the *Simpsons/SW* promo. What's that?

Carolyn: Congratulations! It's wonderful news concerning your writing job for WEG. Hopefully this is just the beginning for you. My fingers remain crossed.

Maggie Nowakowska: It's a good question, how come Luke takes to killing so easily? Well, my understanding is that Luke has grown up in the "Wild West". That's what Tatooine is — a frontier town and there are hostile natives or other settlers. When Luke and 3PO go out looking for R2, Luke has a powerful-looking rifle with him and, when 3PO announces there are several creatures approaching, Luke takes the rifle and obviously intends using it if he has to. On the other hand, Luke is a bit of a coward when he's confronted by the "scum" in the cantina. So my feeling is that Luke has probably had to shoot Sandpeople and others, maybe even humans (moisture-rustlers?) when they've attacked the Lars homestead, but it's always been impersonal and at a great distance. In SW he only shoots faceless stormtroopers.

It might make an interesting story — the first time Luke had to shoot someone.

Tina Bentrup: The good mother/bad mother quote comes from an interview Lucas gave which appeared in *American Film* in June 1983. He said, "Darth Vader is the bad father. Ben Kenobi is the good father. The good and bad mothers are still to come." Unfortunately, we don't know if he's talking about the first trilogy or the third. However, I think he's used the basic plot in *Willow* since that had good mother/bad mother characters.

Have to disagree with you about TESB's plot. Like the other two movies, I think the plot is excellent. The plots of all three SW films are works of art. However, there are some "holes" *between* the movies, but I'll explain that later. First, I'd like to offer some answers to the questions you posed:

1. "Why was the Wampa necessary?" Well, I suppose he wasn't essential to the main plot but provides menace and danger for the rebels until the Empire turns up. The Wampas were due to appear in many more scenes as we all know. I recently learned of another interesting scene involving them which doesn't even appear in the novel or comic. If you watch one of the TESB trailers, you'll notice 3PO tearing a sticker off a door. This is from a scene when they're evacuating the base. The rebels have put the Wampas in a strong room and the sticker is a "danger" symbol. When 3PO is evacuating, he tears the sticker off the door. The snowtroopers come through, open the door and get attacked by the Wampas.

2. "Why did Vader chase the *Falcon*?" Well, what other ship could he chase? He had to tell his admirals which ship to look out for. The *Falcon* is a unique ship and Vader knew that Han, Chewie and probably Luke or Leia would be on board. Either way, he knew that once he had Luke's friends, he would have Luke. Vader couldn't order his men to chase Luke's X-wing. How would they know which one to chase? I suppose you could argue that Vader could have reached out with the Force to find Luke but with all the chaos (physical, mental, etc.) of the battle, I think he'd have trouble getting a "clear signal."

3. "How did Luke know where Dagobah was?" Well, as you say, the Force led him. He tells R2 that he prefers to keep it on manual. I didn't get the impression from the movie that Dagobah was uncharted. This info comes from the novel and other sources. So I wasn't worried how he got there while watching the movie.

4. "Why did Vader bring in bounty hunters when he already knew where the *Falcon* was?" Well, he knew it was in an asteroid field, but he also knew that it wasn't wise to rely on the abilities of star destroyer admirals. And he was right!

As I said earlier, the only plot concerns I have are what occurs between the films. For instance: TESB is 3 years after SW. Why did Ben wait 3 years before sending Luke to Yoda? ROTJ is 6 months or a year after TESB. Why do our heroes wait so long before rescuing Han? Comments anyone?

Louise Turner: On the subject of zinelegging, thanks for pointing out the issue of copying artwork. It can really suffer with each copy generation, just like video copying.

I must defend Kevin Anderson's *Jedi Academy* books against your criticisms which weren't fair. The idea of Wedge having an alien girlfriend isn't such a radical one.

There have been other occasions where this has occurred. In the Marvel Comics there was that pink-skinned woman who was always lusting after Luke. In one of the early drafts of SW, Han had a girlfriend described as a 5 ft. tall cross between a brown bear and a guinea pig (see p. 146 of *Skywalking*) and, then of course there was Jabba's lust for Leia. So I don't think it's fair to call Wedge's romance a departure. And it's not done in any kind of sensationalist way.

You've also misunderstood her position in the Empire. Actually, she has no position. She's a slave used for her scientific abilities. She and many others from her planet were taken as children and trained in science because the Empire knew they had particular talents. Their homeworld was always under threat of destruction if they failed to live up to expectations. She's quite an interesting character, actually, because she has a very limited view of life. She's only even known numbers and scientific problems. It's not until she meets the rebels that she realizes what it's all for. Her name's Qui Xux. The Anderson novels are still the only spin-off novels I've enjoyed, although I haven't read *The Chrystal Star* or *Children of the Jedi*. I get the impression that *Bakura* is the most popular. I read about half of it and got really bored then skipped through most of the second half. ((Ed: I've noted with interest that the like or dislike of the pro novels seems to be divided by gender — both of the writer and the reader. Those novels written by women — Vonda McIntyre, Kathy Tyers — are more heavily into relationships and are most enjoyed by female fans. The books written by men — Timothy Zahn, Kevin Anderson — lean more heavily on hardware and action and are more enjoyed by male fans.))

Michelle Malkin: The Dark Horse comics are *not* canon. They're supposed to fit in with the new novels but they're not official stories. According to the *SW Insider*, the only canon material is the films, the screenplays, the radio dramas and the novelizations. The problem is that much of the Dark Horse info is being cross-referenced with the West End Games material and people are starting to take it as official. It's not. It is all getting a bit confusing, though. Example: Is Coruscant the official name of the Imperial capital? We all seem to accept that as its name but, as far as I can tell, the name didn't appear until WEG came along.

Tim Blaes: A few issues ago in SE, we were discussing the much rumored longer UK version of TESB. Have you come across any evidence since then? All the UK fans I've asked about the matter say that they never saw a longer version and never met anyone who did. A lot of them are aware, though, that it's a rumor which continues in the US. I'd love to know how it got started. Maybe there's some truth in it. If you have any info, I'd be very interested in it.

Finally, I'd like to say thanks to everyone who voted

for me in the Star Awards. And I'd better sign off now before I go into Tom Hanks mode!

IN THE TUB WITH SE

Donna Frayser
712 W. Southpark Blvd.
Broken Arrow, OK 74011

June 12, 1995

What joy to come home after a grueling 14 hour workday to find *Southern Enclave* waiting! I got into the tub with SE and turned on the whirlpool, having initiated the SOP that nobody is to knock on that door unless (1) the tornado is on the ground and less than 500 yards from the house, (2) it's an *arterial* bleed, or (3) the house is on fire and the flames have gotten as far as the bedroom. Cheree, I hope you know how much your hard work is appreciated by all of us who usually merely lurk instead of responding. To help your RSI (repetitive stress injury), is there any possibility you could get a scanner like Ming has? (Hi, Ming!) ((Ed: I have a scanner at work which helps immensely. I'd never get this thing out if I still had to type it all!)) Please accept belated condolences on the death of your father. The obituary you wrote showed clearly what has been called the uncommon goodness of the Common Man. He seems to have had the qualities that make for true greatness, infinitely more so than any politician or business mogul or media figure ever would. How you must miss him! No one in your life will ever be there for you in quite the way your father was; but there will come a time when the pain recedes and you will be glad to remember. Been there.

I know I never write except to renew, but this time I really had to thank Maggie Nowakowska for putting together the Golden Age history; it's been fascinating. I wish you could have put in more about the personalities, some of which sound gloriously eccentric; but perhaps you had hurt feelings (not to mention libel laws) to consider. What you wrote sounded objective and fair to all parties. But really, I would have loved to read all the sordid details!

Marti Schuller: I nearly called you last winter (we had gone up to Kansas City to see *Phantom of the Opera* on tour there) but on remembering that while I had been reading all *your* letters, you knew nothing about me, I thought it would be too much of a shock! Lee's Summit is pretty country, girl. I really empathize with your newbie feelings; there's always the knowledge that whatever you write somebody somewhere has written before, and possibly written much better. But that's no excuse for not pushing ourselves to do it in our own ways.

Mary Jo Fox: What an appalling idea, to have Harlan Ellison under Boba Fett's mask! Right up until I read your letter I'd always sort of hoped Fett had escaped from the Sarlaac. I think it would be cool if ol' Fett turned out to be a woman, and we never did find out who Luke and Leia's mom was...

How right you are about SW fandom being underground in the 80's! If not for the happy accident of being married to a Trekfan who happened to pick up a flyer for *Tremor* at a con, I still wouldn't know anything about it. But what with the Net growing all the time, who knows how it all might take off now.

Tim Blaes: Really like your considered comments on pro and fan writing. One thing we should remember is what Heinlein pointed out in *Grumbles from the Grave*, that a writer's first business is to entertain, and if he doesn't do that he'll never get his ideas across because nobody will keep turning the pages to find out what they are. Certainly we can (generally) expect more technical competence from the pros, but they are admittedly less entertaining sometimes; as you pointed out, it's not always from the heart. But we should always keep in mind that zine readers and organized fans are a very small percentage of the book-buying and ticket-buying public — perhaps less than one percent. So our opinions may not count too much with the publishers.

Matthew Whitney: Too true, what you said about usage in SF language of phrases like "first meal" or the dreaded "standard time parts" that can really distract and irritate! It's highly unlikely that another galaxy would have anything human — though "people" might come in all shapes and sizes — so a translator would put everything into some earth equivalent. There's nothing wrong with using good basic English to convey your meaning, and saving the invented words for the truly outre — yipes, lapsed out of English! Perhaps I ought to stop pontificating. I love the way Lucas came up with "lightsaber" for example — good accessible English words, yet conveying a sense of something Other.

And speaking of English, Gerald Crotty, you fine artist you, the language in all its permutations is delightful, from the Scottish burr to our Southwestern twang, even to the plummy vowels of Queen Elizabeth! And I will regret the day when mass media wipes out all regional differences as it is already fast doing here in the States. Don't listen to him, Louise! It's great to hear from all of you in the UK (even if the Brits did behave rather despicably over here in 1812-1814). Did anybody else wonder if Lucas used British actors as Imperials to play on our subconscious xenophobia? Or was it mere convenience because filming was done at Elstree?

A. G. Steyn: You are a naughty (but funny!) girl. I'm not as badly jolted as you are by the use of words like dogs

and ducks in the novelizations. If the SW universe has humans and falcons and trees, who knows what other parallels there might be? But you and Pat Grant have a good point about the use of a term like Immelman; it's loaded with associations. And yes, Pat, I too was puzzled by *Stargate*'s use of Ra as a villain, though I suppose it would have been worse if they'd used Osiris. I think Ancient Egypt is fascinating, too.

And to whomever asked about Stephanie Hawks (I'm a brainburn case and can't remember), I have a few 80's *Doctor Who* zines with some terrific examples of her art work, and I know she's done art for other fandoms. I think you might be able to catch up with her by checking zine listings in other fandoms and writing to the editors.

Good luck to you, Carolyn Golledge, in your new writing job and may I say I'm not a bit surprised? You've earned it.

Yo, Minky, welcome; your Thighmaster comments sent me into paroxysms of giggles.

Brian Harris and everyone else in this neck of the woods, hope you haven't been too badly battered by all the storms this year. I love a good thunderstorm but even I am getting burned out on them by now.

Hope Mediawest went great for all of you — hope to attend one myself some year soon, though I'll probably just lurk there too, if I do. And hope you've all had a great summer! Any of you traveling this way are more than welcome to call or stop by.

SURVIVED ANOTHER MWC

Tim Blaes
Route 6, Box 294
Hendersonville, NC 23792-9455

I seem to have survived another MediaWest*Con. Almost didn't make it this year, due to the economic state of the family, but MW*C is just about the only social event left to me and I would have been in a blue funk if I'd missed it. Just wish I didn't have to deal with a 19-hour bus trip. "No ma'am, I'm not on drugs; Greyhound did this to me."

The workshop for SW writers & artists was fun, and I'm pleased at the response I got from the excerpt I read from "Leia vs. Murphy's Law" (I'm still surprised that no one threw tomatoes). If we do this again next year it'll need a bit more organization. It took 20 minutes just to introduce ourselves. Someone suggested that we should have pooled ourselves into groups of 4 or 5, and that sounds like a good idea to me.

An issue brought up at the panel I would like to continue here; who should control what and how a story is

illustrated, the writer or the artist. I've also heard an opinion that the editor should call the artistic shots. I think they should all work together.

I assume most of you saw the lightsabers in the dealers room? Oh, if I'd only had another \$225 this year. Not only could they light up a transparent rod, but they also vibrated when switched on! I understand that Lucasfilm is getting ugly with people making lightsabers.

Marti Schuller: I think I could understand why Leia might name one of her sons Anakin. Judas used to be a common, respectable name, until one person disgraced it. The public at large doesn't know about Darth Vader's other life, and I don't think Luke or Leia are in any hurry to tell them. That Leia did name her youngest son Anakin tells us that she did finally come to terms with who her father was and forgave him.

How much would you like to bet that young Anakin will be the real heartbreaker of the family? On the other hand, he could also be as he was in J. P. Treleaven's "Adventures In Babysitting" in *I Don't Care What You Smell!*, a marvelous zine I picked up this MediaWest, edited by Judith Yuenger and... What was her name? Can't seem to remember. Anyway, it was a *great* zine!

Debbie Kittle: Yeah, those wide screen cards are stunning. Can't help but wonder why they didn't do something like this sooner. Some of them would make nice posters. I'm looking for cards # 51, 77, 82, 86, and 97 to complete my second set. I've got some extras; wanta trade?

You understood exactly what I was getting at, regarding Palpatine's visions of the future. The old goat was so smug that all he was capable of seeing was victory. He did; it just wasn't his own.

Mary Jo Fox: *Snowfire* is hot, and I'm not just saying that because I've got stuff in it, and I'm glad to hear it's not just going to be a one-shot. I'm with you 100% regarding the secondary material. We don't have to swallow all of it, we can pick and choose what we like to use in our art & fiction.

Carolyn Golledge: Glad to see you make it to MediaWest after all. I hope you'll remember us when you become a Big Name Pro Author. Think you'll ever get around to sending me a cross-universe story? *A-Cross the Force* is still alive, but it's stuck in carbonite.

Belea Keeney: If you'd like to get the hardcover novels for less than the hardcover price, join the SF Book Club. You might have to wait for a few months for the SW novels to be included in the selections, but they'll be there sooner than they will appear in paperback.

Matthew Whitney: Whoa, that was fast! Glad to have you back. As for the pro novels, I haven't been able to read all of them either, but you might want to try *Truce at Bakura* and *The Crystal Star*. Dark Horse Comics is

planning to adapt many of the novels into comics, including *Splinter of the Mind's Eye*. That first original novel suffered from being written before the first movie was even finished and I wonder if DH will be able to fill in the cracks or even finish the story Foster left hanging.

Susan Zahn: There is reported a ban on novels set between or before the movies. That's a shame, because the sort of story I'd ask Carrie to write would be a "day in the life of Leia" set between *A New Hope* and *Empire*. It could answer some questions I've had for some time, such as what are her day-to-day responsibilities? How did she adapt from being a Senator to an underground revolutionary? How do front-line rebels regard her, and what kind of relationships did she form with those closest around her?

The number of men at MediaWest has been steadily increasing, mostly because the women are bringing their husbands into fandom. So I wonder why there hasn't been a male/female writing partnership in fandom. I think there have been a couple of editing partnerships.

I agree with you on the *Dark Empire* comics; the coloring is way too grim and cold. Kind of makes me long for hoojibs.

M. J. Mink: So you like "Blonds in helpless bondage", huh? Prefer redheads, myself. Your talk of Jedi ThighMasters invokes images of Darth doing the infomercial circuit with Suzanne Somers.

I haven't yet read Anderson's *Jedi Academy* books, but I imagine Luke's scene before the New Republic Senate going something like this. Luke: "We must restore the Jedi Knights!" The Senate (in dazed unison): "Yes, we must restore the Jedi Knights!" Remember, this scene happened not long after Luke dabbled with the Dark Side. And he could be influencing them a bit without even completely being aware of it.

A. G. Steyn: Y'know, The Dead Bothan Society would make a great name for a rock band. Who was it selling the official DBS T-shirts at MediaWest this year? I'd like to order one.

I think we should allow for a certain amount of Earthisms. We are stuck with characters who speak English, after all. We can spend half a paragraph describing an X-wing maneuver, or we can say Luke did an Immelmann. (Of course, I wouldn't mind the half-paragraph, because I don't know what an Immelmann is.) And I would like to think the SW universe still has things like dogs and cats, chocolate, and stupid puns.

Z. P. Florian: Wasn't that 80 lb. python at MediaWest neat?

The idea of an underage kid being caught with an adult zine gives me the willies, even without factoring in the Wrath of Lucas. Heaven help us if one of those Big Time TV evangelists were to get ahold of a slash zine. We

must be discreet!

Brian Harris: Well, I think *Star Trek* deserved a better third season than the one it got.

The "stag" room at MediaWest (stop snickering, Susan!) has unfortunately disintegrated out from under me. One of the key members has decided not to return to the Con for personal reasons, and when I called the other guy to find out which hotel we would be staying at, he told me "I've decided to room by myself this year. I'm sure you'll be able to find a room." I didn't, and if I hadn't pulled night duty in the F.O.E. Cantina I don't know what I'd have done. They did me more of a favor than I did them. A cosmic sized Thank You to all concerned.

So if you plan on coming to MediaWest next year, we may have to start an all new bachelor pad.

No, the women of fandom aren't out to clip a guy's wings. Most of them aren't anyway. But there are times when I feel out of the loop. I doubt it's anything they are aware of, but there are some subtle mechanisms of this female society that are hard for a man to interface with. Hard, but not always impossible. I'd rather be with this crowd than hang out with the mundanes.

Maggie Nowakowska: Tatooine is a frontier world far away from "the bright center of the universe." Given the hostile nature of the terrain, water, and natives, death would be a more common occurrence there than on one of the more "civilized" worlds. Luke has probably looked Death in the face numerous times before we first saw him.

I can easily imagine Leia and/or Mon Mothma writing a paper, initially for the High Command but eventually leaked to everyone in the Rebellion, on the topic of "What Are We Going To Do Once We Win?" Being an educated woman, surely Leia must be aware that she and other leaders of the Rebellion could become "dangerous" at the end of the war? Would there be any way to prevent/prepare for this ahead of time?

The term *anti-hero* has been misapplied by most of the people I've heard use it. My dictionary lists it as "a protagonist who lacks the attributes that would make him a heroic figure, as nobility of mind and spirit, a life or attitude marked by action or purpose, and the like." Homer Simpson is more of an anti-hero than Dirty Harry.

Greedo ambushed Han and threatened him at gunpoint, so I have no problem with Han blowing him away from under the table. I'd take it *very* seriously if someone pointed a gun at me.

Gerald Crotty: If you have any idea how we might be able to view a copy of "Return of the Ewok" let us know. I'm sure it would be quite popular at American conventions.

Yeah, that was my name in the letters page of *Superboy*. I've been a comics fan from way back, born & bred in the DC briar patch, though most of what I buy

today you would probably find too obscure. Mostly stuff from Antarctic Press, Dark Horse, and VIZ Comics. Besides the SW titles, does anybody here read comics?

I disagree that *Stargate* was without drama, wit, chemistry, or excitement, though it didn't excel remarkably in any of those categories. Rather, the movie was solidly *good* in all aspects, and was produced for a fraction of what the studios said it could be made for, and those are the movie's main virtues.

Jennifer Moore: I'm not jumping up and down yet, but *Star Trek: Voyager* shows a lot of potential. I've talked to a couple of friends who watched the first 3 or 4 episodes then gave up on it; the plots were retreads of past Trek episodes, they said. Perhaps, but the first season of *The Next Generation* was rife with the odor of *deja vu*, and it improved over time. I like the characters, and the music/visuals in the opening credits are beautiful!

I'd like to thank you and the others for letting me know that I was not alone in my initial awkwardness at MediaWest. I wasn't sure how that confession would be received.

Pat Nussman: Perhaps you should drop a note to Kevin Anderson on Fidonet and GENie, that if he *really* wants to know what long-time SW fans think, he should read *Southern Enclave*.

I read the *Young Jedi Knights: Heirs of the Force* by Anderson & his wife Rebecca Moesta on the bus to MW*C this year. I enjoyed it. It had a reasonably good plot, though I think they talked down to the reader at times; the "young adults" this book was targeted for are sharper than they seem to realize. I understand that they are also working on a *Junior Jedi Knights* series, presumably featuring little Anakin. If a story doesn't feel right to me, I wouldn't want my (hypothetical) kids reading them.

Tina Bentrup: Han could probably be fitted into a cameo in the first trilogy. Perhaps Ms. Skywalker might need the help of a gypsy-spacer kid to smuggle herself & daughter to Alderaan.

Pat Grant: George Lucas didn't produce *Star Wars* as any sort of altruistic gift for us fans. By most reports he didn't expect the film to make that much money, either. He made SW for much the same reason that we write fan-fiction; because something inside of him compelled him to. That Lucas makes money out of SW shouldn't affect how we treat him. The fact that we do not should not affect how he treats *us*.

And Lucas *did not* do all the work to produce the Trilogy! He was vital to its inception, I don't dispute that. But if you tally up the individual creative contributions of the other writers & directors, actors, production artists, ILM ... heck, most of the people listed in the end-credits, Lucas comes in on the short end of scale. He didn't do it alone. The next time somebody trashes Han should we be

required to get Harrison Ford's approval?

Cheree: I'd be interested in George Takei as a presidential candidate, too. But he had to drop out of the '79 California Senate race due to some wild interpretation of an "equal-time" law that equated his appearances in ST as a political appearance. His opponents threatened to have *Star Trek: The Motion Picture* pulled until after the election. He could face something similar in a presidential race.

Question: if you use a scanner to feed these LoCs into your computer, do I still need to double-space? ((Ed: *It helps. The ideal copy to scan in would be double spaced and typed in Courier type — much as you have been sending yours in. It will read most anything except dot matrix but this format is the best.*))

Cheryl Pryor: Just what is it about Winter (the character) that sets you and others off? There's not enough to her to dislike.

Michelle Malkin: I had some idea of what you were trying to do with your "anti-male" comments, and I'm not angry. But I can't let a sexist/illogical comment go by me unchallenged, seriously meant or not.

"Girl-girl sex has a sweet innocent charm about it that's hard to explain ... especially to your wife." From the letters page of *XXXenophile* #5. I bring this up because I suspect that it has a corollary to "slash" fandom. I'm sure it's hard to explain to your husbands, also.

Louise Turner: \$25 happens to be a significant chunk of my take-home pay. Perhaps I'm the only tight-wad in fandom, but I'm more inclined to buy a zine the cheaper it is, and I'd rather not have to deal with overseas snail-mail. Finding an American publisher could lower costs and simplify distribution. Trust me on this.

Don't worry about re-inventing the wheel in zines. It's something we all have to do when we get here. Maybe some day one of us will get it right.

Hi*Yo Silver, Away ...

AIMS TO INSPIRE

Z. P. Florian
6214 Waterway Drive
Falls Church, VA 22044

The best of the press — SE deserves an award, a permanent first place in this universe.

First of all, congrats to Golledge for her contract with West End. Well deserved.

To all: Hambly's SW novel is well readable. Luke fans will like it.

Kittle: I did catch *Voyager*. Neatly done, fizzled limply further on. Whitney wrote that the characters are great,

and they are, but the only one getting a remotely decent role is the Doc.

Palumbo: I inspired you? It would be arrogance to deny that I aim to inspire — what else is controversy for? But thanks. I need flattery, especially on gloomy, rainy spring days shortly after the Oklahoma bombing.

Fox: What, Weis offended by the Energizer Bunny? Hey, I wasn't and show me a more rabid Vader fan than I am (okay, forgive me, Veronica).

Golledge: Computer — buy a 386 IBM clone, 4 megs memory, nothing else but Windows and a mouse. Used, it should be around \$600, max.

Keeney: Drop me a large SASE. I'll copy the letters for you. And I am quite okay about vertical challenges: short is grand. Re flattery, read above. The weather is still gloomy.

Blaes: Okay, so tell me, why didn't the Ewoks peel Han and Luke before cooking? At least us poor girls would've seen a bit of skin, after Leia wearing next to nothing for *your* pleasure. But, yes, she is kinda skinny. And yes, I think men would be able to carry a child to term. After all, they are the ones who served time in the military since the beginning of time and carrying all the equipment wasn't any easier than carrying a baby. As for galactic lingerie, you might as well grab a pen and do something just in case there will be a *Garbage* #2. (A female Hutt in silk stockings?)

Whitney: Oh, sure, Vader was plotting against the Emperor from the beginning of time. Rule the galaxy as father and son — he needed all the help the boy could give him. And when it came to the final confrontation, he left the Galaxy in the boy's hands. His turning was not a surprise — it was rooted in his character.

Zahn: Where do I get the time/energy? To be honest, the praise should go to the federal government. While I was working in the private sector, whenever I was done with my work, the boss said, great, you can go home early. Now, no matter how fast I am done, I have to sit out the eight hours. Guess what, I fill the time with SW. My co-workers think I am insane but who cares? Let them stare. Your German does not suck. Oh, well, I don't believe either that Lucas really intends to do any movies — all he wants is a line of computer games and related toys for teenage boys. As for Luke learning to flip Bantha burgers ... you think I wouldn't let the poor boy retire, tend his gardens and forget about the whole shimmering mess of dead Jedis? I don't have a very high opinion about governments in general, and Luke wouldn't find his place in any new one, either. He is a warrior, not an administrator.

Taero: I don't think Yoda told Ben much. When Ben said, "This boy is our only hope", Yoda answers, "No, there is another." Perhaps Ben didn't even know that Leia

was the twin sister or was he just really dumb and forgot it in the heat of the moment? Wow, this is a great idea! Write it!

Mink: Newbie? You have been here long enough, even if not in person. What you wrote about the Jedi was very much on target. The words used were words of fear (sorcery, mind trick, etc.), and just look what Bib Fortuna said, "Rather bargain than fight? He is no Jedi!" What does that tell us about the reputation of the Jedi? Using the Force only for defense? Just what the heck did the Jedi do to acquire this reputation? Or — being an expert propaganda worker myself — just how good did the Imperials do in discrediting the Jedi?

Harris: What a question! Of course Vader is a romantic hero. What else? Tall, dark and handsome, imprisoned behind a black armor, feared by everyone, lonely in his majesty, waiting for his chance to eliminate the Emperor and bring peace to the Galaxy, lost his wife, his babies ... how much more romantic can he get? Okay, he is not cute, but this is not a Harlequin universe.

Nowakowska: Of course Han smuggled *everything*: blacklisted reading tapes, stolen computers, anything that needed to be smuggled. Spice, too. Re the fragile Luke: the guy used to hunt womprats from his little flying machine, like the brave hunters shooting deer with machine guns from a jeep. He was going about on Tatooine with a rifle and I have no doubt he'd use that rifle on any Tusken Raider he can shoot. He is raised on a planet that was full of dangerous lifeforms. As a kid, he was probably throwing stones at the Sarlacc. A certain level of violence must have been very natural to him and he definitely had no inclination to consider the Jawas a suppressed minority. He wasn't raised an artist or prince: he was a frontier farmer. Re your remark, of one needing to know that good could be pulled out of evil, otherwise we'd all despair — thanks for putting it so well. I was searching for this truth and couldn't come up with more than a vague feeling.

Malkin: Yes, yes, yes. It was very wrong to have Leia advise Luke to run away! Run away??? Run? Away? That, from a girl who withstood the mind probe? Who faced Tarkin and Vader with insults? Who packs a gun and directs Rebel pilots to blow up Death Stars? I'd like to see someone write a story where Luke answers to her advice: "Oh, yeah, you're so right, sis. I'm going to pack my bags and travel to Ord Mantell. Look me up in the Honeybunny Inn when this whole Death Star business is over."

Finally, to the lowlife who write that I am Yoda, because short am I and grammar I use inverted, let me you warn that the next x-wing I of the swamp raise will on your head be dropped! Of my stature you may joke but to my grammar a large respect I demand!

OLD AND NEW

Marlene Karkoska
2383 Meadowood Blvd.
Twinsburg, OH 44087

June 14, 1995

Greetings from Twinsburg, the Twins Capital of the World! During most of the year, Twinsburg is a quiet community but for 3 days every August, twins from all over the U.S. and many other countries gather here for the Annual Twins' Days Festival. Twinsburg is only 17 miles from downtown Cleveland but it has a small town atmosphere. A large dairy farm adjacent to my 5-year-old development gives the area a rural flavor. It is an interesting mix of old and new.

I'm a mix of old and new, too. I'm an old SW fan whose interest was newly rekindled about a year ago. A few "old timers" might remember that I wrote LoCs to SE for about 2 years during the Great Church of Ford/Cathedral of Luke controversy.

I found the wonderful characters and classic story very appealing when I first saw SW in April of 1978. I loved *all* of the characters but Luke Skywalker has always been my favorite. I didn't discover fan fiction until late 1983 or early 1984. I was shocked by the viciousness of the attacks on Luke by the Church of Ford in SE and I became one of his defenders. Even after that nonsense ended, more and more of the fanzines began to contain Dark Luke stories or stories where Luke was killed off or portrayed as very weak. In others, he had only minor roles or was excluded altogether. Fanzines were also becoming more expensive and I figured it was silly to pay for zines whose contents (for me) were depressing, irritating, or disappointing. So I stopped buying them and for 6 years I didn't read any SW fanzines or letterzines. I didn't even watch the films. My interest in SW was resparked when I read *Truce at Bakura* by Kathy Tyers. I enjoyed it very much and, after reading it, I suddenly had the urge to reread Ellen Randolph's books *A New Challenge*, *Revenge of the Sith* and *Sanctuary*. (I highly recommend these fan fiction books to anyone who hasn't read them! They are *wonderful*!) Very soon after that, the SW trilogy was shown at midnight on 3 consecutive nights in a local theater as a fund raiser for a children's hospital. After not seeing them for 6 years, I found them surprisingly fresh and magical and I was hopelessly hooked on SW again! (I was amazed at the huge crowds that turned out for these midnight showings. Three large theaters were sold out every night!) I started buying zines and SE again. I was planning to simply "listen in" and not actively participate in SE, but I decided

that if I could survive the Church of Ford, Cathedral of Luke war, I could survive anything! I'm not a fanzine editor, author or artist; I'm only a consumer. I hope you don't mind "hearing" from someone who is not involved in fanzine production.

Thanks to a friend who shared her copies of SE with me, I've read most of the back issues. I have lots to say after 6 years away from SW (about 8 or 9 away from active participation in SE), so I hope Cheree won't get too upset if I take up more than my share of her letterzine!

First of all, Cheree, my sincere condolences on the loss of your father. I lost my own father to colon cancer almost 2 years to the day of your father's death. (April 4, 1993.) I understand your feeling of loss.

Thank you, Ming Wathne, for your comments about using abbreviations without first spelling them out! As one newly returned to fandom, I have found some of them very difficult to decode. I missed the issue where JAMs and CLMs were defined and I found myself struggling to figure out the puzzling letters until someone finally (mercifully!) spelled out the meaning.

Michelle Malkin: In the *SW Insider*, Production Editor Sue Rostoni and Continuity Editor Allan Kausch said that canon includes only the screenplays, the films, the radio dramas, and the novelizations. Apparently, they (Rostoni and Kausch) use and update *A Guide to the Star Wars Universe* by Bill Slavicsek which contains a timeline of the SW events. This now seems to be the "official" timeline, and the West End Game Books and the novels now seem to follow it. I know that a lot of people have been discussing the ages of the characters again recently. According to Slavicsek's book, Luke and Leia were 18 during *SW:ANH* and Han Solo was 29. Ben Kenobi was 60; Darth Vader was 55. Also, to answer Belea Keeney's question about time between movies: TESB takes place 3 years after ANH and ROTJ takes place almost a year later. If Luke looks older than 22 in ROTJ, that's not surprising. Given all that he learned and experienced in a very short time, and with all the physical, emotional and spiritual trauma he went through during and after TESB, it makes sense that he would age beyond his years as he also grew in wisdom and maturity. (...and Gerald Crotty, I'm one person who *does* think that Luke looked like a teenager in SW. I was surprised to find that Mark Hamill was 24 during the filming.)

If we *do* follow Slavicsek's timeline, it is true that Darth Vader would have been about 37 when he fathered the twins. This does not seem like a "very young Jedi" to us, but perhaps people live longer in that far away galaxy than we do, so perhaps 37 *is* considered young there. (In Ellen Randolph's universe, a normal life span is 120 years, for example.)

I noticed that rather recently there was a lot of

discussion in SE about the possibility of Luke being sterile. Surprisingly, many folks seemed to feel that this would be a good thing. Very frankly, I wholeheartedly *DISAGREE!!* Marti Schuller, I think that this started with your stories. I know that you write about a sterile Luke. You are a very good writer and you do wonderful characterizations! I have enjoyed *most* of your stories. (The exception being "The Emperor's Revenge" — though I must admit it touched me deeply.) However, I really feel that you're wrong about this being a good thing for Luke "because it will keep him from getting distracted from his important life's work." If Leia, who is head of the New Republic (and as much a slave to duty as Luke is) can have a husband and children, then Luke, who just has a few Jedi students to worry about, should be able to find some time to devote to a family as well. It *is* possible to have both a career and a family. I think that if Luke is allowed to have personal happiness with a wife and children, it would make him a better, stronger, healthier Jedi Master, not a weaker one. In Ellen Randolph's short story "Changeling" in *Sanctuary*, Luke at age 88, father of four, and grandfather of many, wrote a letter to his wife while on an extended trip. He said, "My Jessalyn, I would have had a very bitter and empty life without you." I think that would be true. Without the joy, humor, compassion, laughter, and balance that a family would provide for him, Luke's life *would* be bitter and empty. Some fans have been complaining about the rather grim, two-dimensional Luke that was portrayed in some of the pro novels. I think part of this comes from the fact that the human, feeling side of Luke was missing. He was Jedi Master only in some of the books and all work and no play *would* make for a rather grim Jedi ... and for Luke, I don't think "play" would be enough. He would want to share a commitment with someone. Having a partner with whom he could share his life and his work would make Luke's life easier, not harder. I truly believe that! A family would lift his spirits from the immense burdens of being a Jedi Master. I do think that Luke would probably not marry until later in life (mid-thirties anyway) because he would want to train some Jedi Knights first. When he has others who can help with the teaching, he would probably feel more comfortable starting his own family, but he shouldn't have to deny himself personal happiness forever. Luke deserves to be happy. I hope George Lucas plans to give him a wife and children in the future. Besides, what a waste of good genes it would be if Luke doesn't have children! (...and I'm hoping to see a good father/son relationship between Luke and his offspring in the third trilogy someday!).

I must admit though that poor Luke's experiences with women so far in his life (in films and novels) could easily make him a prime candidate for a psychiatrist's couch or cause him to swear off women *forever!* As a teenager,

Luke was ridiculed by Camie. The princess of his dreams ended up being his sister. He was attracted to Gariel Captison for whom Jedi Knights are somehow contrary to her religion. A witch tried to "capture" him. Mara Jade wanted to kill him. Jem died protecting him. And *then* he fell in love with Callista who died physically before he was even born! Not exactly a great track record! As if that weren't enough, if Luke *really* wanted to feel depressed, he could remind himself that his own mother chose to keep his sister and send him away! Yes, the poor boy has definitely had his problems with women!

Seriously though, I really *do* wonder why Leia remained on Alderaan with her mother while Luke was sent to Tatooine. Was it because Luke resembled his father too much? Did Luke have a stronger Force potential which caused Ben Kenobi to fear that he would be discovered unless he was sent to a faraway rimworld? Did Yoda foresee that Luke would be the catalyst that would eventually bring about the Emperor's fall, and so wanted him out of the public eye? Was it simply easier for a boy to be passed off as a farmer than a girl? Any other ideas, anyone?

I also would still like to know why Owen and Beru were willing to foster Luke. This was really a rather dangerous child to have around if the Emperor discovered him. What was in it for them? The only thing that makes sense to me is that one of them *must* be related to the twins. Ben Kenobi and Owen are brothers. Ben could also be the grandfather of the twins (mom's father) or Mom's older brother. Or Beru might be the sister of Anakin Skywalker or of the twins' mother. Does anyone have another idea about why Owen and Beru Lars were willing to accept the awesome risk and responsibility of raising Luke Skywalker? Just another thought ... perhaps Beru was desperate for a child and Owen acquiesced because the child would make his wife happy and keep her company in a harsh, lonely environment and please brother Ben at the same time.

Maggie Nowakowska: I'd like to discuss your question about Luke's reaction to seeing the charred remains of his guardians. First of all, to me, Luke seems to be a person who feels deeply but doesn't often show those feelings on the outside to a great degree. Also, the George Lucas Style of Storytelling doesn't allow for long emotional scenes. (I'm really surprised that he filmed that touching death scene between Luke and his father.) Lucas is more interested in getting to the action as soon as possible. Even though we didn't see Luke cry on-screen, that doesn't mean he didn't do it or didn't feel like doing it. I think the death of his guardians affected Luke deeply. The SW radio dramatization (which is also canon) showed a far more devastated Luke. Here are a couple of examples. Ben: "Easy, Luke. Take it easy." Luke: "There was practically

nothing left of them! Oh, Ben, you could hardly tell they'd been human beings! They were all I had, the only family I ever knew in my whole life! And when they needed me, I wasn't there!" Later, as Luke is driving the landspeeder and he keeps drifting off course, Ben says, "That's the third time you've strayed Luke. If you're tired, I could take over the controls." Luke: "No, no ... it's just ... I can't get it out of my mind, Ben... What they did to my uncle and aunt. I see it over and over..." When Ben died, we briefly see Leia trying to comfort a deeply saddened Luke before he is called to action by Han. In the rescue of the princess, the space battle, and later the battle against the Death Star, everything happened so fast that there wasn't much time for thought and reflection about the reality of what was going on. I have always felt that the night after the destruction of the Death Star would probably have been a very difficult one for Luke Skywalker. I doubt that he got much sleep as full realization hit him about the significant loss of life, both friend and foe, that day and his own part in it.

However, I also feel that life on Tatooine *was* difficult and often even violent. Teenager Luke Skywalker didn't leave home without a weapon. Obviously, the sandpeople were dangerous and likely to strike without provocation and Luke mentioned to 3PO something like "sandpeople or worse". So Tatooine was not exactly a peaceful planet. Danger and violence were not unknown there.

Tina Bentrup: I'd like to address some of your questions. (1) The ice creature probably wasn't necessary. Luke could have been zapped by the Imperial probe droid (although the damage to Luke would probably have been worse!). George Lucas *likes* creating aliens, though, so I think he used the Wampa just to please himself (and to explain the slight difference in Luke's appearance due to Mark Hamill's car accident). (2) I don't think Vader actually thought Luke was aboard the *Falcon*. Vader was already well-acquainted with the *Falcon*. He had seen it aboard the Death Star; he knew Han, Luke and Leia had escaped the Death Star in it; and the *Falcon* was responsible for the damage to his TIE fighter which sent him spinning away from the Death Star, giving Luke the opportunity to fire his torpedoes and destroy the Emperor's toy. Vader was interested in capturing his son and he intended to use the *Falcon*'s occupants (his son's friends) as bait to lure Luke into his trap. If by lucky chance Luke happened to be aboard, so much the better, but I think his immediate goal when he saw the *Falcon* was to obtain bait for his real prey. As Lando said, "Vader's set a trap..." (3) As to how Luke knew where Dagobah was, I think he was guided there through the Force by Yoda. In the radio dramatization, Luke says to Artoo, "I know it's not on the charts! I'm not even sure how I found it!" Later he says to Yoda and Ben (when Yoda seemed reluctant to train

Luke), "If I can't do it, if I'm not worth, then why was I brought here?" (4) Vader *did* lose the *Falcon* for a time in the asteroids.

I agree with you, Tina. I want to see Coruscant also! If the upcoming films *are* "different in tone" from the originals, I hope they won't be totally without humor, friendship, or hope. If so, they wouldn't be SW films, at least as far as I'm concerned!

Belea Keeney: You said that your interest is now focused on the prequels to ANH. Maybe it's because I was away from SW for such a long time, but I actually have only a little interest in what happened *before* ANH. I really wish that Lucas would make the sequels instead. I want to know what happens to Han, Luke and Leia in the future, and I want to meet *their* children.

Liz Sharpe: Hi! Did you ever write the sequel to your wonderful story "Command Performance"?

Does anyone know whether or not Chris Jeffords ever wrote her *Brightstar in Glory* novel and, if so, where I can get a copy? Was the bibliography of fanzine stories ever produced? I would really like one! Does anyone happen to know whether the members of the old Church of Ford still believe that Han Solo is a secret Jedi Knight and Luke Skywalker is not a Jedi at all?

I have read good and bad fan fiction and good and bad pro fiction. I see nothing wrong with being honest about sharing your reactions to either. I am always interested in hearing other fan's opinions about the recent pro fiction. I hope you don't mind "listening" to mine. Unfortunately, I have a lot of "catching up" to do, so this will take a while! If you haven't read the pro fiction yet, you will probably want to skip the rest of this LoC.

Unlike most fans, I didn't like *Dark Empire* very much. I felt it diminished and negated too much of ROTJ and, except for a few quibbles, I basically liked that film. I also thought DE portrayed a Luke who was far too grim and cold. His personality underwent a huge change between *The Last Command* and DE, and only a very short time elapsed between the two. Certainly there was not enough time or enough reason to explain the change. I especially did not like the return of the Emperor. I feel that dead characters should remain dead! (...and just *how* did he manage to transfer to a clone while he was falling in the shaft and the Death Star was being blown to bits?!) I liked Dave Dorman's cover art, especially for books 1, 2 and 4 and the collection but I didn't care too much for Cam Kennedy's work. He does wonderful spaceships but the characters bear very little resemblance to their onscreen counterparts and I don't find the monochromatic coloring appealing.

I thought DE started off very well. The first book was exciting and intriguing. However, the story became rather disjointed in the later books and the "ending" was very

unsatisfying. Very little was really resolved. Obviously, there will need to be a DEIII. One thing I wondered about was why Yoda or Ben never seemed to know about all of the Force sensitives on Ossus. The cover of the "whole gang" of book 6 was quite spectacular! I'd like to have a print of that cover!

I basically liked Timothy Zahn's books. (I guess I'm in the minority here, too.) I actually liked them better the second time I read them than I did the first. (Yes, I *actually* read them twice, once when they first came out and then again last summer after I became interested in SW again.) I didn't like the idea of the trees as the source of the New Republic's information leak. A traitor in the New Republic, like Admiral Ackbar or General Madine (I never *did* like him much) would have been more exciting, I think. I didn't like Mara Jade either. I'm glad Luke didn't end up with her. I also feel that the books would have been better if Zahn had been permitted to do what he originally wanted to do: He had wanted the Joruu C'Baoth character to be a clone of Ben Kenobi. I think that would have been more interesting, more powerful, and more effective, because of the impact that would have had on Luke. The rest wasn't bad.

I very much enjoyed *Truce at Bakura*. It had good characterizations and a good story. I even liked her (Tyers') original characters. I liked *The Courtship of Princess Leia*, too. The witches were a bit much and Han Solo's characterization was weak early in the novel, but I liked the discovery of the Chu'unthor, the action, and the fact that Luke finally got to use some of his Jedi skills in this book. (That's one of my biggest disappointments about much of the pro fiction: Luke Skywalker is only rarely shown using his many Force talents. I would particularly like to have Luke be given the opportunity to use his gift of Future-sight. Even if the future is always in motion, Luke's ability to see into the future should be one of his strongest talents, I think. Even early in his training on Dabobah, Luke demonstrated the gift of "seeing" glimpses of future events. I wish more pro writers would have Luke actually *use* this special talent!)

Anderson's *Jedi Academy* trilogy was a disappointment for me. He had too many characters and too many plot ideas and he didn't handle any of them as well as he could have if he would have deleted some of the characters and plots, and expanded upon and improved the ones he left uncut. He had some good ideas, but they got lost as he over-indulged himself. (That whole holographic zoo chapter was ridiculous and unnecessary, for example.) Anderson seemed to care more about his original characters than he did about the Lucas characters. I also do not share Anderson's ideas of what a Jedi Academy or Jedi training would be like. He made the whole thing overly-mystical and stressed the mental side of the Force. What

about all the rigorous physical training Luke experienced under Yoda? That seemed to be almost totally missing. Luke himself was rather a monklike, hands-off person. It all seemed rather wrong somehow and the whole Exar Kun thing with Luke in stasis was really weird. What I objected to most of all though was having Han Solo go off after Kip. *That* should have been the job of the Jedi Master. Since Luke knew the terrible consequences of a Darksider on the loose in the Galaxy, I think *Luke* should have been the one to go after Kip when he left with Mara Jade's ship. In my opinion, after what happened with his own father, Luke Skywalker would have been extra wary and very concerned about unleashing a new Dark Lord on the Galaxy. It should have been the Jedi Master's responsibility to deal with Kip.

I enjoyed Barbara Hambly's *Children of the Jedi*. She was rather excessive in her descriptions (a friend said she was surprised Hambly didn't describe exactly what Luke threw up in zero-g!), and she had too many aliens, but I basically liked her story. I chuckled when I read about all of the injuries to Luke because they reminded me very much of the treatment of poor Han Solo by Carolyn Golledge in her stories. (I *do* enjoy your stories, Carolyn!) I guess it was Luke's turn to have his body trashed! The best thing about her book, though, was her human portrayal of Luke Skywalker. In far too many books, he has been very two-dimensional, a Jedi Knight only, sort of experiencing life vicariously through his sister and her family. Hambly showed a more complex Luke, a *human* Luke. Some of his childhood memories were shared, and she finally found a girl for Luke! I loved Callista, her background, her personality and her physical appearance. She's a special girl. I just wish she hadn't started out as a computer voice! The ending was magical and lovely, just like in fairy tales. Barbara Hambly has been signed to do another SW novel, but it won't come out until spring of 1997. I wonder if Callista will get killed off or if there will finally be a wedding for the Jedi Master? (Of course, I'm hoping for the latter!)

In my opinion, the worst SW book was *The Crystal Star* by Vonda McIntyre. (And it was the one I had most eagerly awaited!) I thought the story was dull and unimaginative and most of the book involved the Solo children. The kids were about the only intelligent characters in the entire book! As one who reads about 200 children's books a year (I'm a first grade teacher), I prefer to have adults as the main characters in the novels that I read. The characterizations were very bad, in my opinion. Leia didn't progress at all in Jedi skills and she didn't seem to be in control of herself. She was angry with poor Chewie when the kids were kidnapped, even though he nearly lost his life trying to protect them! Han Solo's character regressed. He only seemed interested in

drinking, gambling, and former girlfriends. Luke Skywalker was portrayed as a whimpering, selfish, violent, weak-minded fool who was totally lacking in self-control. He hardly seemed like someone you could leave alone without a keeper, let alone allow them to train future Jedi Knights! He started to draw his lightsaber on Han at least twice in this book, and he broke almost every rule in Yoda's Jedi rulebook. Does this sound like a Jedi Master? Does this sound like Luke? And if Rillao and Hethrir were strong Jedi, active during Yoda's time, why did Yoda tell Luke he was the last Jedi? IMHO, this was a *very* bad book!

So far, I am enjoying the *Corellian Trilogy*. The characterizations are good, the story is exciting, and there is humor too. (I loved Lando's scheme for getting "deep pockets"!))

Cheree, I am sorry that this letter turned into a monster. I am also sorry about being so late with this tome, but work (in this case report cards and end-of-the-year records) had to come before "play" (this LoC). Tomorrow is the last day of school! Have a wonderful summer, everyone!

RECOVERED YET?

Amanda Palumbo
PO Box 397
Lake Peekskill, NY 10537

June 25, 1995

Hello, all and sundry — recovered from MWC yet? Those who hadn't attended are probably wondering just *what* the brouhaha's about. Well, I recently learned *why*. So many people/activities, so little time... 15 ft. snake-stroke sessions, getting nerf-whipped at the FOE Cantina Friday Dance with these long, psuedo-sabers, 3 a.m. discussions on theology and philosophy with an ex-NUN dressed as a DS9 "vedek" (ST religious leader), meeting terrific correspondents, shaking blooms off the poor trees in the hotel courtyard harmonizing with another SW balladeer post-midnight ... hey, where else can one participate in either a quarterstaffing or fencing class given by two extremely generous people outside? (Thanks, Dora, and your unknown master-in-crime!) Never mind those enshrined *doors* ... all this merely the tip of the Hothberg during an abbreviated day and 1/2 stay! Now I know!

Marti: Nice to meet at last! Gee, and I was sooo looking forward to watching SW and Indy on that widescreen TV — thought you were bringing it in the U-Haul for zines. Congrats on the Star Awards! Say, doesn't New Year's start in May, by your time reckoning?

See, it'll be uphill from here.

Cheryl Pryor: Oh, your door just said it *all* — hope you saved and framed that sucker! You and Lin ... her *hat* should've won a prize. Yes, the Igneous Rock Cafe shirt fits — already have been asked to explain it (...in three sentences or less? *How?*). How's the store?

Debbie Kittle: Yours and Z. P.'s exhibit is more than a doll show. Does the Museum of Natural History/Wonders know about this? When's the national tour? Hey, what happened to that lil slipper of Leia's? Really; you two should be staff consultants for the next trilogy! Have you acquired 2nd and 3rd jobs yet to pay for the next wave of collectibles firing our way? Oh, and have you amassed a munitions dump-sized pile of them "Han-winkie" cards yet? You and your filks — nearly fell into the loo reading them! This year's bumper crop of zines really reflect the pro books' impact on the scene. Overheard someone musing the possibilities of incorporating Marvel's runs' elements, too. *sigh*

Mary Jo: Legal Alliance Eagle just had to go and graduate MW weekend; whatta dilemma! Heard you'd donned ANH-era Leia regalia, eschewing traditional cap & gown; what's next? Camouflage for court? Nice to see *Snowfire* for sale in Judith Y.'s "Corellian Mall" — *better* be a #2 — have enough material up to #5 yet? Oh, what about *Threepio* proclaiming "warning, warning..." in the next Sci-Fi retro? Did you know that Droid TV is on 7am weekdays on the Sci-Fi Channel? Ariana and Erica are *still* searching for our gang; get the same question every five minutes. Yes, Brian's still threatening to tote axe & PA to Eclecti-Jam (hi, Kathy) but my keyboards will only be present if I can *somehow* reprogram them without spending 3 mortgage payments — you're the DJ; can ya fly the mixing board? Hmmm... Filksters/Musicians Strike Back? History certainly does repeat itself fen-wise. Yikes! The writing scene *must* change and/or evolve; who wants stagnation? Invite entropy? Personally, I'd like to see more fen-author collaborations; look at Wilson & Schuller's results! By the way, how's your end of that Rocky Horror/SW crossover coming? Bar exams, by virtue of the name, *should* be conducted in, say, Planet Hollywood at the next Dead Bothan meeting. Talk about support groups... Of course, that was Harlie in Boba's suit!

Tim: Ha! That's *your* opinion — the 5th! *Laser bidet*? Can I use that in one of my stories?

Louise: Run over Denis Lawson with your cycle yet? Tacitus' tome is now on my must-read list ... now, now — just because Qwi was *blue* (I'm never gonna hear the end of this) Luke's mated a la cyberspace COJ (I *did* enjoy it) — at least Wedge's first date was with a *breathing* humanoid! Since when can *any* seemingly fundamental concepts such as JAM/CML be reduced to polar categories? Shades o' grey... *Intolerant*? *You*? Those

unique viewpoints so *eloquently* expressed in letters ... so; what *century* is TOF II due out? Awaiting...! Whew, what a trip, you *incredibly* fortunate soul! And I thought Edinburgh's ruins the ultimate!

Matthew: Ah, the waxing and waning, then resurgence of fannish fire — like a true marriage, a continuous cycle. Big time concurrence with your observations/positions last issue. On the Yoda part, I've a question: with Ben as Anakin's mentor, wouldn't there have been references to Kenobi's teacher? He seems to be more involved with his students than the rather non-committal elder. Or, perhaps none thought Yoda could live that long? Is his age an aberration for the species, something to do with the Force? Or, if we start seeking absolutes in ages and continuity within the Saga, frustration is the probable result; one of SW's and other fantasies' charms has been the transmutability of various factors! And no, I'm not talking about character profile alterations, ignoring canon ... alternate universe scenarios are great for exploring "what if's" ... showing *your* age? Like, groovy.

Brian: Don't let them Texan Twisters carry ya off fer good — yep, another song's in the works; probably what blew the Korg Poly 800! Virus' infected the top board too! Looking forward to comparing musical notes at E#2, if I don't run into *major* interference on the home front. Yeah! Bring back Lumiya — sounded great! Cantina ... yes, I *am* thinking what you are ... last two letters *refracted* that on both sides ... Hawaiian Coconut or Banana Bean tonight? Oingo-boingo java!

Z. P.: Congrats on the resounding success of *Rest of the Garbage*. Re your musings to Marti last SE — why don't *you* write it? Also, since prejudice has a nasty way of blinding bigots to facts before their eyestalks, Kenobi perhaps wouldn't necessarily have recognized Vader's signature on the first Death Star — or anyplace else; Darth was literally over Obi-Wan's head back on Tatooine ... on that subject, if Leia (also overhead) was placed under his vigilance ... does *he* require a more tangible connection, despite a Force-manipulator? I too am a Hambly fan — how did you find COJ? Amazing exhibit: made paying holiday airfare rates even more worthwhile to the con! Were the inestimable Zornom around back in '69, ST couldn't have been bumped from its original timeslot! Do continue their impact upon this universe, please? A pleasure to meet you. P.S. — I hear WCIV is already on the boards and Hamill *will* be featured again.

Belea: Hi, and welcome to the SW Think Tank! Where did you find, if you did, female Imperial Honor Guards, since you must've checked it out for Louise. The PS and Letterbox/Widescreen Vader skulls on my sets are the same. Is it only the Laserdisc version that differs? Why don't you write that story you'd mentioned? Most of us have explored similar angles at one time or another; each

puts their own unique twists and flavor into it — happy writing! I look forward to reading it.

M. J. Mink: Another big welcome! My younger daughter seems to be following your pattern re falling for the “badduns” and she’s already 3. Since you’re grown up, do I seriously have to start fearing for her romantic future? Oh, Anakin’s helmet is equipped with a Cranial/Facialmaster! Liked your theory on Luke’s “tactile reconnaissance”. How could the Alliance indulge in the “luxury” of coddling *any* of their members/fighters? In addition, Luke himself didn’t term himself a Jedi until Endor, anyway, at least attire-wise. Just as important is the canonical fact that if Han hadn’t returned to clear Sky’s tail back in ANH, Luke would’ve been immolated and so much for the Return of the Jedi until next generation,

unless Leia was tapped, and her skills were needed elsewhere anyway. Luke’s the clearer slate. If anything, Han’s character evolution/change was pivotal! Yay for Solo!

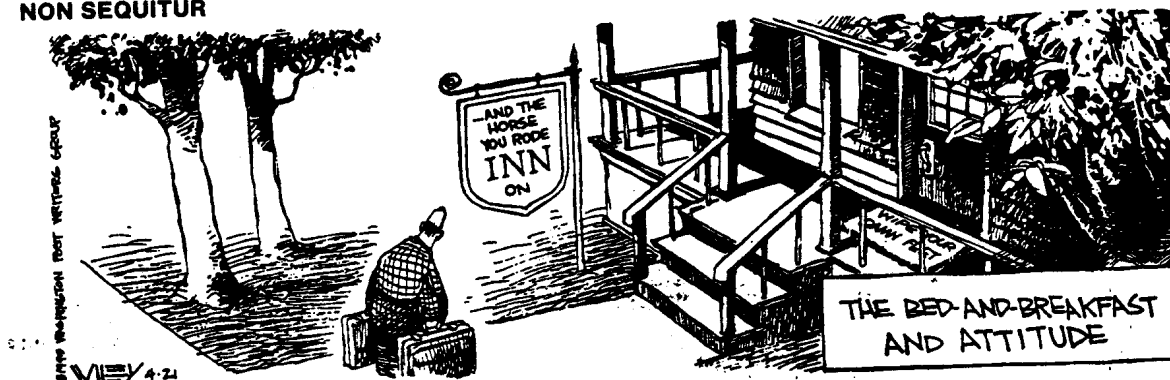
Anybody and Everybody: Hi, hello, and Cheree will kill me if I don’t sign off here!

Cheree: I’ve said it umpteen times and shall say it again: *Thanks for continuing SE and Tremor!* Laud and scads of applause!

Judith: Congratulations to you and Marti for such a wildly successful zine. People are falling in their respective johns all over while reading *I Don’t Care What You Smell!* Hope you get that artist to paint you a similarly astonishing fire-lizard vest!

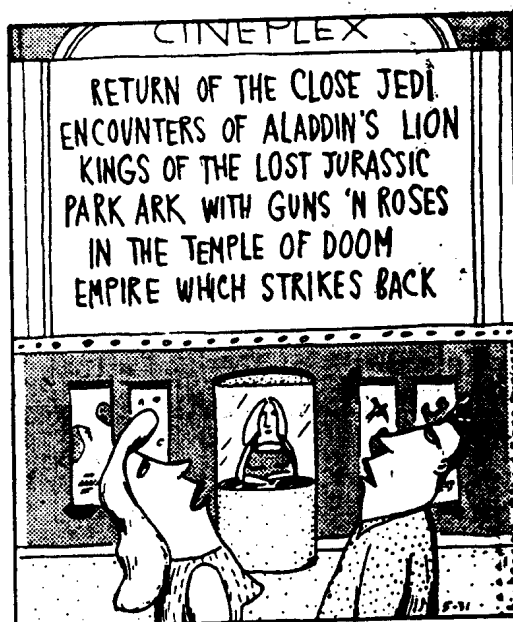
By Wiley

NON SEQUITUR

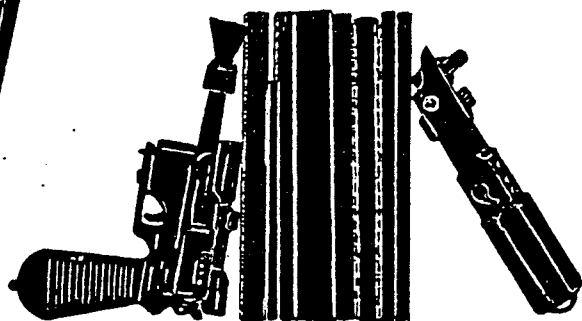


THE QUIGMANS

By Buddy Hickerson



"Boy, that new Spielberg/Katzenberg/Geffen studio sure is taking some chances."



MOS EISLEY MARKETPLACE

CURRENTLY IN PORT

ALLIANCE AND EMPIRE #2 is now available. 1994 Fan Q Winner for Best SW zine. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

ALLIANCE AND EMPIRE #1. 1993 Fan Q Winner for Best SW Zine. Includes stories by Schuller, Florian, Nowakowska, Campbell, Webster, Brin, Kirka, Kittle, Graham, Golledge, Kesler, Nussman, and Lybarger. Poetry by Taero, Mastoris, Olsen, Wilson. Filks by Olsen, Kittle. Art by Guttierrez, Camp, Humphrey, Churko, Cargill, Florian, Thomas, and Lybarger. Cover by Thomas. Laser printed, photocopied, 250 pp., GBC bound. \$24.00 priority mail (insured), \$28.00 to Canada, \$31.00 UK, small parcel rate. Make checks payable to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #8. Featuring the return of Martie Benedict, back after an absence of over 5 years! Also material by Anson, Campbell, Cargill, Ghilan, Golledge, Hines-Stroede, Jones, Mayers, Schuller, Taero, Turner, Wilson, and more of your favorite writers. Art by Churko, Crotty, Florian, Lybarger, Guttierrez, Stasulis, and more! Includes several 1994 Star Award winners — Best Cover Art, Best Illo Artist, Best Cartoons, Best Filk, Best Vignette, Best Short Story, many others. Also Fan Q winner for Best SW story — "Mercy Mission". \$28.00 priority mail, \$35.00 overseas airmail. Checks payable to Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Dr., Garland, TX 75043.

A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #7. 1993 Star Award Winner for Best SW Zine. The Vader Issue! Contains many other Star Award winners and runners-up — best cover artists, best illo artists, best poem, best cartoons, best medium and

long stories. More! "Designated Hitter" by Carol Hines-Stroede, illoed by Nancy Stasulis. A new chapter of Carol's Darth Vader/Alan Patronis series. Also stories by Campbell, Cargill, Florian, Ghilan, Golledge, Lybarger, Sapiento, Schuller, Treleaven, Wilson, and others. Poetry by Agel, Ghilan, Moore, Taero, and others. Color cover by Nancy Stasulis, color bacover by Dianne Smith. Interior art by Churko, Crotty, Florian, Guttierrez, Lybarger, Stasulis, and others. Over 300 pp. \$28.00 priority mail; \$35.00 overseas airmail. Checks or money orders payable to Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Dr., Garland, TX 75043.

BLUE HARVEST. Episode Six. Our best issue yet! Featuring everything you ever wanted to know about Wedge Antilles/Denis Lawson, the Marvel comix, collecting props, reviews, essays, and more. It's still \$4.00 by mail in the US, \$6.00 overseas. Please make checks or money orders out to Mary Jo Fox. Episodes 3, 4 and 5 are still available for the same price. To order your copy, write to Mary Jo Fox, P. O. Box 215, Vienna, VA 22181. (Please add .75 if ordering two or more zines.)

BRIGHT CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE #4. Winner 1994 Star Award — Best SW Zine. #1, 2, 3 available as reprints. From Soaring Wings Press. SASE for price and information to Ming Wathne, 437 Via Roma, Santa Barbara, CA 93110.

CHRONICLES OF THE HOUSE OF ALDERAAN #3. The Empire may have fallen but Han Solo and the princess aren't exactly leading a quiet life together... During the Clone Wars, Princess Carla ignores a warning and interrupts an escape to buy "Milk for the Baby"; Lando Calrissian becomes embroiled in political intrigue when his pal Solo asks him to track down a woman who may have stolen an ancient relic from Alderaan; "Princess Leia Pays a Call" on

her sister-in-law, and is amazed when her husband uses "The Old Jedi Mind Trick." There's much more in this biggest *Chronicles* yet! Stories by Denyse M. Bridger, Julie Gelbart, and Susan Deborah Smith. Illustrated by Julie Gelbart, J. M. McClure, Kathy Miller and Brandon Tucker. 160 pages; perfect bound; printed on recycled paper. \$16.00 US, \$18.00 Canada (US dollars); \$20.00 overseas (US dollars). Shipped priority mail within the US, air printed matter abroad. Checks payable to Susan Deborah Smith, Pisces Pig, Ltd., 3538 Mentone Avenue #3, Los Angeles, CA 90034-4820. Volume #2 still available at \$14.00; \$16.00; \$18.00 respectively. SASE for info about reprints of #1.

ECHO THREE #1. Fiction by Fox, Olsen, DeLuca, Florian, Jivan, Ghilan, August, Kyla, Mesarthim & Stardancer. Color cover by Guttierrez. \$13.00 US, \$17.00 foreign. Check or money order. Mail to Kymm August, PO Box 1003, Long Beach, NY 11561.

FIELD STUDIES #3. All Indiana Jones zine back with a new, action-packed issue. Stories by Cargill, Florian, Sleeman, Virgil, Webster and Weddell. Color cover by Wanda Lybarger. Interior art by Lybarger, Dani, Crotty, Martynn, Florian, and others. Available in January, 1994. \$15.00 priority mail, \$20.00 overseas airmail. Please make checks payable to Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Dr., Garland, TX 75043.

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU SMELL! Now available. We are basically a comedy/light hearted adventure zine (with a name like that what else could we be!!!) but we won't say no to any 'good' story even if it isn't a comedy. Please contact: Judith G. Yuenger, 901 Meadowcrest Road, LaGrange Park, IL 60525-2530 or Marti Schuller, 415 SE Annette, Lee's Summit, MO 64063-3403.

I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS! Issue #1 is now available, with stories by Campbell and Turner, Dutech, Florian, Golledge, Guttierrez, Schuller and others! Plus poems by Wilson, and artwork by Churko, Crotty, Florian, Guttierrez, Pearce, etc. The zine is 160 pages in length, laser-printed, photocopied and comb-bound. Copies are available for \$25 or £15 (price inclusive of mailing) from Louise Turner, 89 St. Andrews Drive, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire, Scotland, PA11 3JD, Great Britain. Prices quoted are for US mailing only -- for all other countries please write (including an I.R.C.) for details.

IMPERIUM #4. Stories by Schuller, McCurry, Wilson, others. Art by Florian, Hoyt, Lybarger, Rosenthal, Stasulis. Cover Marla Fair. 118 pp., spiral bound. \$15.00 (\$20.00 overseas). Make checks payable to Kirk Taskila, but send

c/o Arwen Rosenbaum, 109 West 85th Street, New York NY 10024-4401.

LAIR OF THE BLUE FALCON. New novel by J. A. Berger. SASE for price and availability to Ming Wathne, 437 Via Roma, Santa Barbara, CA 93110.

PURSUIT OF THE NASHTAH by Nora Mayers. It was not Luke's youth that made Genral Khala Jhen Rhessa dislike him as much as it was his own fear of the unknown. Rhessa was far more secure with a strong arsenal than with old superstitions and he found the idea of the Jedi as a major source of the Republic's protection a frightening concept. Somehow Skywalker had to be stopped. Send SASE for price information to Hill Valley Press, c/o Nora Mayers, 5485 Columbia Road, #523, Columbia, MD 21044.

REMOTE CONTROL #3. 1993 Star Award winner for Best Multimedia Zine. Includes fiction by Knights (*Rat Patrol*), Gillilan (*Simon & Simon*), Florian (SW), Webster (Indiana Jones), DeVries (*Young Riders*), Lane (*Alien Nation*), Holt and Grigsby (WOTW), McCurry (*Buck Rogers*), Hicks (UNCLE), Paulson (*Real Ghostbusters*), Wilson (*Magnum*), Karmell (*Professionals*), Martin (*Hawaii 5-0*), Wells (*Wild, Wild West*). Poetry by Matoris and Batterby. Illustrations by Florian, Lane, Kirby, Larimer, and Glenn. Laser printed, photocopied, 218 pp., GBC bound. \$22.00 priority mail (insured), \$25.00 to Canada, \$30.00 UK, small parcel rate. Make checks payable to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510. RC#1 (Fan Q and Star Awards winner) and #2 (Fan Q winner) are also available for the above prices. SASE for detailed flyer.

SNOWFIRE: Celebrating Princess Leia. Now available... the maiden issue of SW fandom's only general Leia zine, featuring stories, filks, poems, and art by fans from around the world! Lineup includes Fox, Ghilan, Turner, Palumbo, August, Fredericks, and lots of new people! Color cover, spiral bound, approx. 100 pages. \$11.50 U.S., \$12.00 Canada, \$16.00 overseas. Please make checks or money orders payable in U.S. funds only to Mary Jo Fox, P. O. Box 215, Vienna, VA 22181.

STARNODES. A collection of SW stories by Yvette Ghilan. Contents include "Shore Leave," "Destiny's Knell," "Meeting with an Old Man," "One Night on Endor," "Genesis," and "To Catch a Skywalker." Computer printed. Bound in cardboard covered with sturdy adhesive vinyl. Price, including postage (registered airmail): \$25.00. For details, write to: Yvette Ghilan, P.O. Box 1827, 57112 Ramat Gan, Israel.

STAR WARS BIBLIOGRAPHY. Have you ever wondered what MM zine has a SW story that you wanted to read? Have you ever wondered if an author had done further stories? Now there is a place to find that information. The STAR WARS BIBLIOGRAPHY is available in two versions - listings by zines and listings by author. \$6 each or \$10 for both by mail. Please contact: Judith G. Yuenger, 901 Meadowcrest Road, LaGrange Park, IL 60525-1530. [*Purchasers of the SW Bibliography at MWC:* While doing the new updated Author's version, I discovered (much to my dismay) several whopping mistakes. New pages have been printed up and are available free to you if you send me a note requesting them.]

STRAIGHT BLAKE'S #1 (reprint): The long out-of-print heterosexual-adult Blake's 7 zine, first published in 1988, has been completely reformatted and reprinted. SB#1 features delicious adult stories about Avon, Vila and the rest by Liz Sharpe, Pat Nussman, Susan Matthews and more, with a cover by Karen River. \$15 first class mail from Bill Hupe and Peg Kennedy, 916 Lamb Rd., Mason, MI 48854-9445. Age statement required when ordering.

STRAIGHT BLAKE'S #2: B7 fandom's only hetero adult zine is back for a second issue with stories by Liz Sharpe, Ann Worham and Leah Rosenthal, Aurora, Judith Proctor, Michelle Moyer, Catherine, Liz Vogel, Irish, Kathy Moran, Vanessa Mullen, and Rhapsodie, plus art by Karen River, Leah Rosenthal, Phoenix, Leigh Motooka, and Val Westal. Color cover by Karen River. 100 pp., spiral bound. \$13.50 first class mail from Bill Hupe and Peg Kennedy, 916 Lamb Rd, Mason, MI 48854-9445. Age statement required when ordering.

THE FARTHEST FRONTIER #1 includes Classic Trek stories from Baudoin, Graham, Lee, Sodaro, and Smithson; TNG fiction from Ames, Benoit, Chapple, Morris, and a novella by Cottrell; poems and filks by Bloebaum, Goldstein, McMillan and Stone. Cover by Myers, interior art by Hebert, Humphrey, and Kenealy; cartoons by Miles. Photocopied, GBC bound. \$22.00 priority mail (insured), \$25.00 to Canada, \$29.00 UK, small parcel rate. Make checks payable to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

THE ORMAND FACTOR. Volume One of a two-volume post-ROTJ novel by Louise Turner, illustrated by Gerald Crotty. As recommended by Campbell and Dutech in SE #34! Join Wedge Antilles and Luke Skywalker as they struggle against the remnants of the Imperial forces in a race to discover the truth behind old spacer's rumors of an alien power source in the Outer Rim. For a detailed plot synopsis and costs, please send an SAE/International Reply Coupon

to: Louise Turner, 89 St. Andrews Drive, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire, Scotland, PA11 3JD, Great Britain. Copies will be 180 pp. in length, laser-printed and photocopied, and spiral bound. Available from December 1993, with Volume 2 to follow early in 1994.

THE RENEGADE AND THE ROGUE. One shot zine by Martha Wells. SASE for information and price to Ming Wathne, 437 Via Roma, Santa Barbara, CA 93110.

VOICES. The collected SW poetry of Yvette Ghilan. 44 poems in the voices of Luke, Leia, Han, Obi-Wan, Darth Vader, the Emperor and "X", Luke and Leia's mother. Computer printed, bound in cardboard covered in sturdy adhesive vinyl. Price, including postage (registered airmail): \$15.00. For details, write to: Yvette Ghilan, P.O. Box 1827, 57112 Ramat Gan, Israel.

WE GOT ONE! The first issue of our *Real Ghostbusters* zine includes fiction by Paulson, Nickell, Beetem, Dickerson, Morris, Van Fossen, and Riddle. Illustrations by Riddle, Howarth, and Van Fossen. Special art portfolio by Schreiber. Cover by Walsh. Laser printed, photocopied, GBC bound. \$16.00 priority mail (insured), \$18.00 to Canada, \$20.00 UK, small parcel rate. Make checks payable to Kathy Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

WHO'S SCRUFFY LOOKIN'? — dedicated to Han Solo. SASE for information Kathy Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

COMING SOON TO A GALAXY NEAR YOU

A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #9. Still taking submissions until October 1, 1995. Material already accepted from Martie Benedict-O'Brien, Veronica Wilson, Marti Schuller, Pat Nussman, Z. P. Florian, Mary Jo Fox, Jacqueline Taero, Wanda Lybarger, MJ Mink, Donna Frayser and others. Color covers by Nancy Stasulis and Gerald Crotty. Other art by Wanda Lybarger, Z. P. Florian, Laura Virgil and more. Scheduled publication date: MWC 1996. SASE for submission guidelines. Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Drive, Garland, TX 75043.

CHRONICLES OF THE HOUSE OF ALDERAAN #4 now open for submissions. SASE for detailed submission guidelines. Submission deadline: Oh, why not December 10, 1993? Susan Deborah Smith, Pisces Pig, Ltd., 3538 Mentone Avenue #3, Los Angeles, CA 90034-4820.

ECHO THREE #2. Open for submissions until January 15,

1995. Toons, filks, fiction, art, poems sought. Keep it Luke and PG13. Humor encouraged. SASE or simply sub Kymm August, PO Box 1003, Long Beach, NY 11561, or Amanda Palumbo, PO Box 397, Lake Peekskill, NY 10537.

FROM A CERTAIN POINT OF VIEW #6. Once more into the breach! It's the "family values" issue. I'm looking for some good stories and art dealing with our heroes and their childhoods, children, family relationships (maybe Han & Leia's wedding?), etc. As always, FACPOV prefers upbeat, positive pieces with our heroes as a prominent part, but I'll look at well-written dark drama. I'm shooting for a spring printing, so I'll try to be prompt with revision requests. SASE Carolyn Cooper, Whine Press, P. O. Box 66244, Houston, TX 77266.

IMPERIUM #5 is now open for submissions of fiction, art, poetry and filks. For more information on guidelines and all that, SASE Arwen Rosenbaum, 109 West 85th Street, New York, NY 10024-4401 or via e-mail to ARWENR@AOL.COM.

MARKING TIME. On a grey winter evening in 1994 a handful of brave and crazy (!?) fans thought that the time was right for a Mark Hamill Newsletter. They knew that it would not be easy but nevertheless they decided to put their plan into action... Now in the year 1995 we are looking for devoted and interested fans. This newsletter will concentrate on Mark Hamill and his career before and after SW. The newsletter will be available in both English and German, so contributions in English are welcome. For more information, write to: Marking Time, c/o Tina Lebelt, Fiensburger Str. 6, 19057 Schwerin, Germany. Please enclose a postal coupon and an addressed envelope with your letter.

ONLY HOPE #2 is now accepting submissions of art, fiction, poetry and 'toons. Publication date set for July/Aug. '94. And we are looking for the unique, unusual, and imaginative! For submission guidelines, please contact Cheryl DeLuca, 4181 Rockwood Rd., Mississauga, Ont. Canada L4W 1L6, or Tammy Olsen, Box 153, Benton Road, North Haverhill, NH 03744. New writers and artists always welcome!

REMOTE CONTROL #4. Multi-media zine is now open for submissions of fiction, filks, poetry and artwork. Publication date is May 1994. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Ct, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

SNOWFIRE #2. Still celebrating Princess Leia! This issue will feature a celebration of her relationship with Han, emphasizing *her* viewpoint. Of course, any and all other

kinds of stories, poems, art, filks, etc., about Leia are desired as well! Keep it positive and G to PG-13. Publication is planned for mid-1996. Deadline is 2/1/96. SASE for guidelines to Mary Jo Fox, PO Box 215, Vienna, VA 22181.

SOUTHERN KNIGHTS #3. Now accepting submissions and deposits for the SW genzine. That's right! I'm reviving my very first zine. All characters and situations are welcome. If interested in submitting, please send SASE for guidelines to Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. Deposits: \$5.00 + SASE. On-line address: Ashton7@aol.com.

STRAIGHT BLAKE'S #3: Now collecting straight adult stories for the third issue. I'm particularly looking for stories featuring Tarrant (missing from SB#2) and longer, plotted stories, as well as the ever-popular PWP. Deadline: February 15, 1996 for a MediaWest 1996 publishing date. For more information or to submit, contact Pat Nussman at 1612 Evergreen St., Sebring, FL 33870 or e-mail p.nussman@genie.geis.com.

TATOOINE DREAMS. New Luke zine planned for Spring 1994. Needs submissions. Keep it clean, please. For info, SASE Kymm August, 42 Heron St., Long Beach, NY 11561.

THE FARTHEST FRONTIER #4 is now open for submissions of Classic Trek piecees. Issue #5 is now open for submissions of TNG and DS9 material. Action stories as well as relationship pieces are welcome but no slash will be accepted. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

WE GOT ANOTHER ONE! Now accepting submissions of fiction and artwork for second issue of *Real Ghostbusters* zine. Action-adventure as well as relationship pieces are suitable, but no slash will be accepted. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

YEARS OF FIELDWORK. Now taking reservations (\$5.00 plus SASE) for this collection of Indiana Jones fiction from the "O.S.S." series by Jeannie Webster and Sally Smith. Anticipated publication date is early winter 1994. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

OTHER WORLDS

ART PRINTS — Full color prints. Han and Leia (1990 Star Award/Best Cover Art) by Dianne Smith. Luke by Melanie

Gutierrez. Vader by Nancy Stasulis, bareback Han by Dianne Smith. Suitable for framing. \$2.50 each. Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Drive, Garland, TX 75043.

CLEARANCE SALE: Luke & Leia t-shirts. Black ink on yellow shirts. XL only size left. Wolf t-shirt. White ink on black shirts. First come, first serve. \$5.00. Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Dr., Garland, TX 75043.

CORELLIAN ARCHIVES needs donations of out of print zines — all fandoms. For info, SASE Ming Wathne, Corellian Archives, 437 Via Roma, Santa Barbara, CA 93110.

FANTASY PRINTS. Art prints from the world of fantasy and fandom now available. B/W and color prints in various sizes. Suitable for framing. Makes great gifts for yourself or friends. Print subjects include: Dragons, fairies, elves; *Robin of Sherwood*, SW, B&B, *Prince of Thieves*, ST:TNG. Also offering notebooks, bookmarks, buttons, more. For a free catalog, write to: GLESQUE PRINTS c/o Sarah E. Glasgow, 888 N. First St., Suite 311, San Jose, CA 95124.

LOOKING for Hamill *with* wife and kids on Howard Stern tape and Hamill on QVC. Also in search of Ackbar and Red Guard Bend-Ems to play with others in my demented kitchen. Please contact Amanda Palumbo, PO Box 397, Lake Peekskill, NY 10537. Thanks!

ZINE SALE! Cleaned out my closet and I now have a large number of used zines for sale. SW, ST, B7, media, some dating back to the 70's. Titles include *Wookiee Commode*, *Flip of a Coin*, *Facets*, *Against the Sith*, *Twin Suns*, *Warped Space*, *Skywalker*, *Southern Seven*, and more too numerous to name here. Some fairly recent titles, too. Most zines in excellent to mint condition. SASE for list of available zines to Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Drive, Garland, TX 75043.

ZS9: THE NEXT ZINE SALE. I have *over 250* zines from ST, WOW, SW, UNCLE, ST:TNG, EQ, B:G, QL, B7, and other universes! Zines from Australia, Canada, England, New Zealand, and Scotland! Please send a *large 2-stamped* SASE for list to Marilyn Reichman, 448 Neptune Avenue, Apt. 13H, Brooklyn, NY 11224.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Arwen Rosenbaum
109 West 85th Street
New York NY 10024-4401

Brian Harris
1005 S. Josey Lane, Ste. 204
Box 1246
Carrollton, TX 75006



SOUTHERN ENCLAVE

Cheree Cargill
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